

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 445.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1854.

[PRICE 6d.]



LONDON AND LIVERPOOL

TEMPERANCE LINE OF PACKETS TO AUSTRALIA; Landing Passengers on the Wharf. These ships are most complete in every requirement necessary for the comfort of passengers. The regulations secure health, order, comfort and enjoyment to all on board. The following will be despatched as follows:—

From LONDON,—"AUSTRALIA," 1,300 Tons burthen, for PORT PHILLIP and SYDNEY, from the East India Docks. To sail 15th May, calling at Plymouth.

From LIVERPOOL,—"ORACLE," 2,000 Tons burthen, for PORT PHILLIP. To sail in May. Lying in the Salthouse Dock. These magnificent clippers need only to be seen to establish their claim to superiority, and are expected to make their passage in 80 days.

The chief cabins are as elegant and commodious as art and experience can make them. The intermediate cabins are large and well ventilated, and fitted to suit the convenience of families or single persons. Baths and washhouses are erected on deck.

A library of 300 volumes, free to all passengers, is put on board. Minister and surgeon accompany each vessel.

Terms, from £20 to 25 guineas. Chief cabin, 50 guineas. For the "Handbook for Australian Emigrants" and full particulars, apply to Griffiths, Newcombe & Co., 27, Rood-lane, London, and 13, James-street, Liverpool.

TO MILLINERS AND DRAPERS.—

WANTED, by a young person, (a member of a Christian Church,) accustomed to the millinery and mantle department, a SITUATION in either of the above branches.—Address, Y. Z., Post-office, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

A YOUNG PERSON, a member of a Baptist Church, is desirous of obtaining a SITUATION in a FANCY SHOP, or any light business; references given.—Address, S. F. K., 30, High-street, Ryde.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED

immediately, a FEMALE ASSISTANT of strict integrity, and of business habits; also, a Youth as IMPROVER.—Apply, by letter, stating salary, reference, &c., to JOHN BUTTERWORTH, draper, Coventry.

TO DRAPERS' and CLOTHIERS' AS-

SISTANTS.—WANTED immediately, a respectable YOUNG MAN for each of the above departments. None but those who thoroughly understand their business, and can produce good references, need apply.—Address, stating age, salary, and reference, to EDWARD MOORE, draper and outfitter, Stratford-on-Avon.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—

WANTED immediately, a respectable and well educated Youth as an APPRENTICE to the DRAPEY TRADE in the country, where the comforts of home would be secured, and where the rules of a Dissenting family are required to be observed.—Apply to HENRY ANGAS, Great Driffield, Yorkshire.

TO GROCERS AND PROVISION DE-

ALERS ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, in a Dissenting Family, a steady and respectable youth as JUNIOR ASSISTANT, who can be well recommended.—Address, S. BARLING, Farnham, Surrey.

WANTED, for the HEAD MASTER-

SCHOOL, of the NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, a gentleman of sound scholarship and of sincere piety, fully competent to conduct the classical and mathematical departments of education, along with the religious instruction of the pupils, and the general management of the Institution. A gentleman accustomed to the routine of a public school will be preferred.—Address, Rev. THOMAS SCALES, Silcoates-house, Wakefield.

WANTED, THREE SITUATIONS by

Sisters: one as NURSERY GOVERNESS for young children, one to SUPERINTEND a WORKROOM for Juvenile dresses and Ladies' Outfitting Establishment, d Dress and Mantle making—two years' satisfactory reference f. n their last situations—and one to SERVE in a SHOP in any light business; as she has not a thorough knowledge of trade, three months would be given.—Address, J. O., 23, Cross-street, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

WANTED, a good PLAIN COOK for a

large family living five miles from London. She must have a good personal character for steadiness, activity, and honesty, and a person accustomed to a quiet religious family would be preferred. Housemaid and parlourmaid are kept, and out of doors' man-servant. Age not under thirty. Wages about £14. Tea and sugar, beer and laundry expenses found.—Address by letter, stating full particulars, A. Y., care of Mr. Crossley, 12, George-yard, Lombard-street, City.

NINETY-THREE THOUSAND

POUNDS to be LENT upon FREEHOLD or LEASEHOLD SECURITIES in England, at 3½ and 5 per cent. Principals or their Solicitors may apply to W. WALLACE, Esq., Margate.

SONS OF MISSIONARIES.—The Foreign

BAZAAR in AID of the BUILDING FUND will be held at the HALL of COMMERCE, Threadneedle-street, on Friday next, MAY, 12th; Saturday, 13th; Monday, 15th; and Tuesday, 16th, when the magnificent contributions from China, India, the West Indies, and the Continent, will be on Sale. Doors open at 12, and close at dusk. First day, 2s. 6d.; following days, 1s.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS.—On

FRIDAY Evening, MAY 19th, the Rev. G. W. CONDER, of Leeds, will deliver a Lecture at EXETER HALL, on the PILGRIM FATHERS. To be illustrated by the Government prize picture, now exhibiting there, which is kindly lent for the occasion by the proprietor. Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock. Admission by tickets, to be had, on and after Monday, at the Exhibition Room, 8, Exeter Hall, and of Messrs. Ward and Co.; Snow; and Jackson and Walford, booksellers.

RAGGED CHURCH and CHAPEL

UNION.—The ANNUAL MEETING will be held on FRIDAY EVENING, May 12th, at Exeter Hall. The Right Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY will take the Chair at Seven o'clock precisely.

Tickets may be had at the office of the Society, 15, Exeter Hall.

PEACE SOCIETY.—The THIRTY-

EIGHTH PUBLIC ANNIVERSARY of the PEACE SOCIETY will be held in Finsbury Chapel, Moorfields, on TUESDAY EVENING, May 23rd, 1854. CHARLES HINDLEY, Esq., M.P., is expected to take the Chair at Half-past Six o'clock. Doors open at Six o'clock.

SOLDIERS' FRIEND SOCIETY, 15,

EXETER HALL.—On WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 17th, a MEETING will be held at Exeter Hall, prior to Two Agents being sent out to Turkey to labour among the British Troops. The Right Hon. Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, M.P., will preside. The following Gentlemen will address the meeting:—The Rev. Dr. Marsh, F. Chalmers, J. T. Brown, J. Davidson, J. Branch, J. Robinson, J. W. Gowing, Lieut. Blackmore, R.N. Meeting to commence at Half-past Six o'clock. Tickets to be had at the Office.

BRITISH and FOREIGN SAILORS' SO-

CIETY.—The TWENTY-FIRST Anniversary will be celebrated by a PUBLIC BREAKFAST at the London Tavern, on TUESDAY NEXT, May 16th, at Nine o'clock precisely. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, may be had at the doors, or of Messrs. Nisbet, and Co., Berners-street; Messrs. Ward and Co., Paternoster-row; and at the Offices of the Society, 2, Jeffrey-square, St. Mary Axe. The PUBLIC MEETING will commence at half-past Ten, when the Right Hon. the EARL of DUCIE, President, will take the Chair.

THE ELIZABETH FRY REFUGE.—

The yearly balance sheet of this Institution, ending March 25th, 1854, shows an amount of £141 9s. 8d. due to the Treasurer, and a claim of £57 17s. 2d. unpaid. To maintain its present usefulness is utterly impossible without a material increase in its income from the public; the Committee therefore urgently appeal to the benevolent for liberal aid in carrying on this really valuable Institution. Contributions will be most thankfully received by the Treasurer, J. G. BARCLAY, Esq., 54, Lombard-street; Messrs. W. and F. G. CASH, 5, Bishopsgate-street Without; and by CHARLES GORDELIER, Secretary, 92, Fenchurch-street.

THE NEW ASYLUM FOR FATHER-

LESS CHILDREN, STAMFORD-HILL.

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty the QUEEN.

(Instituted 1844.)

Designed to receive and educate Fatherless Children from the earliest infancy throughout the whole period of childhood, without distinction of age, sex, place, or religious connexion.

THE NEXT HALF-YEARLY ELEC-

TION of this Charity will occur on the THIRD MONDAY in JUNE Next. All applications should be made forthwith to the Office, where blank forms for Candidates, and every other Information, may be obtained, on any day from Ten to Four. Subscriptions most thankfully received.

D. W. WIRE, Hon. Secs.

T. W. AVELING.

N.B. All communications and subscriptions to be addressed to Mr. John Cuzner, Sub-Secretary, and Post-office orders made payable to him, at the Office, 32, Poultry.

RECENT MISSIONS in IRELAND.—

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY will be held on MONDAY Evening, MAY 15, in FINSBURY CHAPEL.

JOHN CHEETHAM, Esq., M.P., will take the Chair at Half-past Six o'clock.

The Rev. W. Tarbotton, from Limerick, and Rev. J. Denham Smith, Dublin, will give details of the present state of the country, and of Missionary work. Other speakers, who have visited Ireland, will also take part in the proceedings.

Admission will be without tickets, and a full attendance is earnestly invited.

May 9, 1854. JAMES WM. MASSIE, Secretary.

THE NEW ASYLUM FOR FATHER-

LESS CHILDREN, STAMFORD-HILL.—Under the Patron-

age of Her Majesty the QUEEN.—(Instituted 1844.)

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY

FESTIVAL of this Charity will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPSGATE-STREET, on TUESDAY, 16th MAY Next.

The Right Hon. Lord DUDLEY COULTS STUART, M.P., will Preside on the occasion.

Dinner on Table at Half-past Five.

STEWARDS.

Sir W. Clay, Bart, M.P.
Sir John Key, Bart.
D. W. Wire, Esq., Alderman
Wm. Black, Esq.
J. B. Blyth, Esq.
Wm. Collins, Esq.
A. A. Coll, Esq.
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George Read, Esq.
Rev. A. Reed, D.D.
Charles Rose, Esq.
George Tyler.

DAVID W. WIRE, } Hon. Secs.

THOMAS W. AVELING, }

Tickets, 21s. each, may be had of the Stewards, or at the Office.

Office, 32, Poultry, where Blank Forms for Candidates, and every Information, may be had, on any day, from Ten till Four. Subscriptions most thankfully received. All communications to be addressed, and Post-office Orders made payable, to Mr. John Cuzner, Sub-Secretary, and forwarded to him at the Office of the Charity.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.—ANNUAL

MEETING, May 4, 1854 J. CHEETHAM, Esq. M.P., in the Chair. Moved by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Wire; seconded by Edward Corderoy, Esq.,—

1st. That this meeting has learned with pleasure and with gratitude to Almighty God, from the Report now read, the gradual but steady progress of the Sunday-school system throughout this country, the British Colonies, and foreign lands; that this meeting approves the efforts made by the Committee to secure for Sunday-schools a literature imbued with Christian principles, and earnestly commends this object to the liberality of the Christian church; that the Report be adopted and printed; and that the following be the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year:—

PRESIDENT—WILLIAM BRODIE GURNEY, Esq.

TREASURER—THOMAS CHALLIS, Esq., Alderman and M.P.

SECRETARIES.

Messrs. W. H. Watson, Robert Latter.

Peter Jackson, William Groser.

COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Henry Althans, John Mann.

William Bagby, jun. J. A. Meen.

George W. Burge, W. J. Morrish.

Robert N. Collins, Richard Mullens.

Francis Cuthbertson, John H. Newman.

Joseph Davis, Daniel Pratt.

Joseph Eke, Charles Reed.

William Gover, John Shorman.

Frederick J. Hartley, John Stoneman.

George C. Lewis, William Turner.

Mr. Stephen Warner, Honorary Member; with the Minute Secretary and three Representatives from each of the four London Auxiliaries.

Moved by Rev. Nathaniel Haycroft, of Bristol; seconded b

Rev. Isaac Vaughan,—

2nd. That, while this meeting rejoices at the facts brought out by the recent Census as to the number of schools, scholars, and teachers in England and Wales, evidencing a rapid progress in the Sunday-school system, it cannot avoid feeling deeply anxious that every teacher thus employed should be spiritually and mentally qualified for the important work of training the youthful population of our land in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ; this meeting would, therefore, encourage the Committee now appointed to prosecute with diligence the efforts made to guide and assist teachers in suitable preparation for the work they have undertaken.

Moved by the Rev. John Corbin; seconded by the Rev. Dr.

Hewlett,—

3rd. That the small proportion of Sunday scholars and of attendants at public worship in the Metropolis, as compared with the population, calls for serious and prayerful consideration on the part of all interested in the welfare of our country. That this meeting cordially approves of the measures taken to trace the causes which have led to this result, and to ascertain the remedies which should be adopted.

Moved by Mr. W. H. Watson; seconded by Mr. W. Groser,—

4th. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to John Cheetham, Esq., M.P., for his kindness in presiding on this occasion, and for his able conduct in the Chair.

* Subscriptions and Donations towards the BENEVOLENT FUND, overdrawn during the year to the amount of SEVEN HUNDRED and FORTY-ONE POUNDS, TEN SHILLINGS, are earnestly requested.

W. H. WATSON, } Honorary

PETER JACKSON, } Secretaries.

ROBERT LATTER, }

WILLIAM GROSER, }

Depository, 60, Paternoster-row,

May 6, 1854.

THE GOVERNMENT PRIZE PIC-

TURE.—THE DEPARTURE of the PILGRIM FATHERS.—Exeter Hall, Strand.—Messrs. THOMAS AGNEW and SON have the honour to announce, that the EXHIBITION of this celebrated and deeply interesting picture is now open at EXETER HALL, Strand, from Ten to Five o'clock each day. Admission on presentation of Address Card.

CRYSTAL PALACE AND PARK.—

SEASON TICKETS, which alone will be entitled to Admission on the Opening Day, and further available until the 1st of May, 1855, may be obtained, by authority of the Directors, at Mr. MITCHELL'S Library, 33, Old Bond-street. Single Tickets, Two Guineas each; with a reduction upon two or more Tickets for Members of the same Family.—Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

TO MINISTERS, PROFESSIONAL

MEN, AND OTHERS.—The OXFORD MIXED DOESKIN TROUSERS, price 18s. Stock for choice, or to measure. S. BATTAM, Coat and Trousers Maker, 160, TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD; four doors south of Shoobred and Co.'s. Patterns of the Doeskin, and Directions for Measuring, sent free, by post.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS may obtain

tickets of Insurance against RAILWAY ACCIDENTS for the Journey on payment of 1d., 2d., 3d., by inquiring of the Booking Clerk at all the principal stations where they take a railway ticket. Railway Passengers Assurance office, 3, Old Broad-street. WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

JAMES SCOTT and COMPANY beg to

announce that they have now opened their premises, 77 and 78, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD. Their stock of SILKS, MANTLES, SHAWLS, DRESSES, RIBBONS, HOSIERY, LACE, &c., is entirely new, and replete with every novelty for the present season.

Having made their purchases under all the advantages of the present state of trade, they are enabled to offer many goods at unusually low prices.

77 and 78, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

COCOA NUT FIBRE MATTING AND

MATS of the best quality. The Jury of Class 28, Great Exhibition, awarded the Prize Medal to T. TRELOAR, Cocoa Nut Fibre Manufacturer, 42, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON.

ORIGINAL
DEFECTIVE

DISEASES OF THE EAR.—Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear, Dean-street, Soho-square. Established 1816.

PRESIDENT.—His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, K.G.
TREASURER.—John Masterman, Esq., M.P.
SURGEON.—Wm. Harvey, Esq., F.R.C.S., 2, Soho-square.
 Admitted during the past year, 1,388; Cured, 559; Relieved 308. Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
 Messrs. Masterman and Co., Bankers.
 H. SMYTH, Secretary

LANCASHIRE INDEPENDENT COLLEGE.—THE SHORROCK FELLOWSHIPS.—The late Eccles Shorrocks, Esq., of Darwen, having bequeathed £2,000 to found three Fellowships in connexion with the above-named college, this sum has been invested in the public funds, and the committee have arranged that one of the Fellowships, being the interest on £1,000, shall be offered for competition each year. It will be tenable for three years, unless the Student holding the same shall in the mean time leave the college either of his own accord or through a vote of the committee.

The competition will be open to all candidates for admission to the college who, having taken a degree in Arts, desire to enter the Divinity Class only, and also to all Students in the House who are entering on that department of their college course. The committee will not however consider themselves bound to award the Fellowship, should the examiners on any occasion report that no candidate has presented himself who has shown adequate proficiency in the prescribed subjects.

The Committee hereby give notice that the Examination for the first of these Fellowships will be held at the College in September. The Examination before the General Committee for admission to the College will be on Tuesday, the 18th of September, and that for the Fellowship on the following Wednesday and Thursday, the 19th and 20th.

The examination in Classics will be conducted by the Rev. R. A. Vaughan, B.A., of Birmingham, and will include the Greek and Latin subjects selected for the next examination for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in the London University, the first Book of Herodotus, the Ars Poetica of Horace, and the Gospel by Luke in the Greek New Testament.

The Rev. H. R. Reynolds, B.A., of Leeds, will examine in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, which will embrace the subjects required for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in the London University.

The Rev. H. Griffiths, of Liverpool, (late Tutor of Brecon College) will examine in the Divinity Department, which will consist of the first part of Butler's Analogy, Paley's Horæ Pauline, and the first five chapters in the fourth Book of Hill's Lectures in Divinity.

Parties intending to compete are requested to send notice of such intention, and to forward their testimonials to the Secretary, not later than August 21st.

JAMES GWYTHIER, Secretary.

5, Vine-grove, Manchester, April 24th, 1854.

FREQUENT TRAVELLERS can insure against RAILWAY ACCIDENTS by the YEAR, Terms of Years, or for the Whole of Life, on application to the Booking Clerks at the principal Railway Stations, and at the office of the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company, 3, Old Broad-street.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

BERDOE'S VENTILATING WATER-PROOF LIGHT OVERCOATS, resist any amount of rain, without confining perspiration, the fatal objection to all other waterproofs: air tight materials being unfit, and dangerous for clothing; and being free from vulgar singularity, are adapted for general use, equally as for rainy weather. Price 45s. and 50s. A large stock for selection, also of CAPES, SHOOTING JACKETS, LADIES' MANTLES, HABITS, &c.—W. BERDOE, Tailor, &c., 96, NEW BOND-STREET, and 69, CORNHILL, (only).

BARON LIEBIG on ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE.—"I am myself an admirer of this beverage, and my own experience enables me to recommend it, in accordance with the opinion of the most eminent English physicians, as a very agreeable and efficient tonic, and as a general beverage, both for the invalid and the robust."—Glasgow, May 6.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE ONLY is BOTTLED by PARKER and TWYNING, beer merchants, 54, Pall-Mall.

IMPERIAL MEASURE.—Quarts, 8s.; Pints, 5s.; Half-pints (for luncheon), 3s. per dozen. Also in Casks of 16 gallons and upwards.

ALLSOPP'S PALE or BITTER ALE.—Messrs. S. ALLSOPP and SONS beg to inform the TRADE that they are now registering orders for the March Brewings of their PALE ALE in Casks of 16 Gallons and upwards, at the BREWERY, Burton-on-Trent; and at the undermentioned Branch Establishments:—

LONDON, at 61, King William-street, City;
 LIVERPOOL, at Cook-street;
 MANCHESTER, at Ducle-place;
 DUDLEY, at the Burnt Tree;
 GLASGOW, at 115, St. Vincent-street;
 DUBLIN, at 1, Crampton-quay;
 BIRMINGHAM, at Market Hall;
 SOUTH WALES, at 12, King-street, Bristol.

Messrs. ALLSOPP and SONS take the opportunity of announcing to PRIVATE FAMILIES that their ALES, so strongly recommended by the medical profession, may be procured in DRAUGHT and BOTTLES, GENUINE, from all the most RESPECTABLE LICENSED VICTUALLERS, on "ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE" being specially asked for.

When in bottle, the genuineness of the label can be ascertained by its having "ALLSOPP and SONS" written across it.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE, genuine, and in fine condition, as recommended for invalids and the table, by BARON LIEBIG. The pretensions of certain parties to any exclusiveness in regard to these Ales, compel the undersigned to assure the public that a supply can always be obtained from his STORES of the finest quality and character, both in cask and bottle.

Apply to NATHANIEL EASTY,

Wine, Beer and Brandy Merchant, 132, Upper Thames-street.

COALS, Best 26s.—R. S. DIXON & SON having Colliers which lower their masts and deliver alongside their Wharf, they SUPPLY the BEST COALS direct from the Ship.—Providence Wharf, Belvidere-road, Lambeth.

HATS for the TIMES.—A CAPITAL HAT for 6s., at MUMMERY BROTHERS' Warehouse, 493, OXFORD STREET, 17 doors west of Tottenham-court-road.

FIVE GUINEAS.—Mr. WM. H. HALSE, the Medical Galvanist, of 22, BRUNSWICK-SQUARE, LONDON, informs his friends that his FIVE GUINEA APPARATUS are now ready. Send two postage-stamps for his Pamphlet on Medical Galvanism.

EASE IN WALKING—COMFORT TO THE FEET.—The LEATHER CLOTH, or PANNUS CORIUM BOOTS and SHOES, are the softest, easiest, and most comfortable ever invented for tender feet. They have no painful or drawing effects, and are softer and easier than any other boots or shoes. Sufferers from corns, bunions, gout, chilblains, &c., will find them invaluable. For warm climates they excel all others in durability and comfort. A boot or shoe sent for size will ensure a fit. The material sold by the yard in any quantity.

HALL and CO., Patentees, Wellington-street, Strand, leading to Waterloo-bridge.

HOUSEHOLDERS' AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—Money received on Deposits at 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly in April and October.
 RICHARD HOBSON, Secretary.
 15 and 16, Adam-street, Adelphi, London.

NATIONAL GUARDIAN ASSURANCE SOCIETY. Chief Office—19, MOORGATE-STREET, LONDON.—The Directors of this Company have much pleasure in informing their Clients and the Public, that they have opened Branch Offices at 4, Newhall-street, BIRMINGHAM; Albion Chambers, BRISTOL; 54, Lord-street, LIVERPOOL; 65, King-street, MANCHESTER; 1, Dean-street, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE; 7, Alter Wandrasch, HAMBURG; and 55, Queen-street, PORTSEA. Intending assured should send for a copy of the last year's report.
 JESSE HOBSON, Secretary.

UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE and GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION, 39, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON.—THE ANNUAL MEETING of this Institution will take place on MONDAY, the 15th of MAY, at Two o'clock p.m., at the ADELAIDE HOTEL, LONDON-BRIDGE.

Accumulated Capital, £100,000.

Since the commencement of this Institution, it has issued upwards of Eight Thousand Policies. In the year 1853 it issued 1,177; and in the year 1854, 1,318.

This is the only Life Assurance Office in which Abstainers from Distilled and Fermented Liquors can secure the full benefit of their Temperance.

The Temperance and public sections are kept in separate classes, and will each receive their own profits.

Policies are indisputable, except for palpable fraud. Sums assured may be made payable to a widow or widower, or to child, without legacy or probate-duty.

Entire profits belong to the Assured. Edinburgh Office: 17, George-street. Manchester: 41, John Dalton-street. Liverpool: 48, Castle-street. Glasgow: 97, Union-street.

Prospectuses, &c., may be obtained at the Branch Offices, or of any of the Agents.

WILLIAM RICHARD BAKER, Resident Director.

SAFE and PROFITABLE INVESTMENT FOR MONEY.—PERPETUAL INVESTMENT, LAND, and BUILDING SOCIETY, 37, NEW BRIDGE STREET, BLACK-FRIARS, LONDON.

This Society offers a secure and safe mode for the investment of large or small sums of money, the security for which is unquestionable, the funds being all advanced upon Freehold, Copyhold, or Leasehold Property.

INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT.

SHARES.—There are three descriptions of subscribing shares: namely:—£30, £50, £100. A £30 share requires the payment of 4s. per month for ten years. A £50 share of 5s. per month for 12 years, or of 10s. for 7 years. A £100 share of 10s. per month for 12 years, or of 20s. for 7 years.

Five per cent. compound interest allowed upon withdrawal.

Members can pay up Shares of £10, £25, £30, £50, and £100 in full, and receive interest thereon half-yearly, with a share of the Profits in addition at the end of each year, which makes the interest now payable at 5½ per cent.

SAVINGS-BANK DEPARTMENT.

DEPOSITORS.—Persons may deposit sums of money of not less than £1 at a time, on which interest will be paid at the rate of Four per Cent. per annum.

Depositors may withdraw their money at any time, on giving the proper notice.

FREEHOLD LAND DEPARTMENT.

The Society purchases freehold land in large estates, and, consequently, at an immensely lower rate than a small plot of the same land can be obtained. This land is allotted among the holders of £30 shares.

Shares may be taken, Prospectuses had, and information obtained at the Office of the Society, between the hours of ten and four, and on Wednesdays from ten to eight.

JOHN EDWARD TRESIDDER, Secretary.

OPERATIVES' LIFE ASSURANCE AND GENERAL DEPOSIT AND ADVANCE COMPANY.

Provisionally Registered under 7 and 8 Vic. cap. cx. Capital £100,000, in 10,000 Shares of £10 each, with power to increase to £200,000.

TEMPORARY OFFICES—5, BOLT-COURT, FLEET-STREET.

DIRECTORS.

Burgess, Joseph, Esq., Keene's-row, Walworth.
 Cuthbertson, Francis, Esq., Aldergate-street.
 Gardiner, B. Webb, Esq., Princess-street, Cavendish-square.
 Gover, John, Esq., Eagle Cottage, New Kent-road.
 Groser, William, Esq., Hemmingsford Villas, Islington.
 Mann, John, Esq., Charterhouse-square.
 Miers, Thomas, Esq., Upper Clapton.
 Pratt, Daniel, Esq., Cuckfield, Sussex, and Bolt-Court, Fleet-street.

AUDITORS.

Millar, Robert James, Esq., North Brixton.
 Wills, John, Esq., Doctors' Commons, and Chatham-place, Walworth.

BANKERS.

The Union Bank of London.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Watson and Sons, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street.

SECRETARY—Samuel Green, Esq.

The Operative Classes want, and should have, an Assurance Society emphatically their own, at once safe and liberal in its arrangements.

The Operatives' Life Assurance and General Deposit and Advance Company meets this want. It will

Issue Life Policies for any sum not exceeding £50.

Arrange for receiving the Premiums at short intervals.

Pay the sum assured to the holder of the policy. Probates of wills, letters of administration, and legal expenses will thus be unnecessary.

The Tables for the Premiums in this Office are carefully prepared, expressly for this Company, on the returns, as to value of life, &c., made by William Farr, Esq., to the Registrar-General of England, September 5, 1853.

DEPOSIT AND ADVANCE DEPARTMENT.

The Company will receive Deposits of any amount, allowing a liberal interest for them; and they will be prepared to make Loans at any time, on any good securities, to be repaid by instalments, as may be arranged with the borrowers. Deposits may be withdrawn on short notice.

The instalments in repayment are arranged so as to cover all legal expenses.

The objects of the Operatives' Life Assurance and General Deposit and Advance Company are, besides Life Assurance for the Operative Classes:—

To assist them in their laudable efforts to provide against foreseen emergency.

To furnish means of safely and profitably investing small Savings.

To afford accommodation and help at times and under circumstances when such aid is of the highest importance and value.

*. Applications for Shares, and for information, to be made to the Secretary, at the Temporary Offices, any day between Ten and Four o'clock.

SAMUEL GREEN, Secretary.

Bolt-court, Fleet-street, London, May 1, 1854.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,

No. 3, Pall-mall East, and 7, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, London. Established A.D. 1834.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS may be opened Daily, with Capital of any amount. Interest payable in January and July.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses and Forms sent free on application.

THE GENERAL LIFE and FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY: established 1827. Empowered by Special Acts of Parliament—63, King William-street, London.—Capital, £1,000,000.

The Directors give notice—

1. That the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Proprietors will be held, at twelve o'clock precisely, on Saturday, the 20th day of May, inst., at the office of the Company, 63, King William-street, in the city of London.

2. That, at such Meeting, the Proprietors who then hold ten or more shares, which they have possessed six calendar months, may attend and vote.

3. That three Directors, Jacob G. Cope, Esq., Thomas B. Simpson, Esq., and Edward Wilson, Esq.; and one Auditor, William Hunter, Junr., Esq., retire, all of whom are re-eligible to their respective appointments, for which they will be accordingly proposed.

4. That any Proprietors, duly qualified, who shall be desirous of becoming candidates for any of these situations, must give written notice of their intention, at the office, to the Secretary, at least ten days previous to the time of such Meeting.

By order of the Directors,

THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

May 5th, 1854.

TROUSERS! TROUSERS! TROUSERS!

—A good fit in this Garment can be seldom obtained. R. GRAVES, Fashionable Trouser-maker and Tailor, 312, HIGH HOLBORN, after many years' experience and study, is enabled to assert, without fear of contradiction, that he can fit gentlemen with this garment better than any other person in London. The characteristic of his fitting is a gentlemanly style, with perfect ease for stooping, sitting, walking or riding. A well-assorted stock of the newest designs to select from.—R. GRAVES, 312, HIGH HOLBORN.

MECHI'S RAZORS, STROP, and PASTE for 11s., 4, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON.

—Pair of Razors, 7s.; Strop, 3s. 6d.; Paste, 6d. The Razors warranted, or exchanged if not approved. Those who find shaving painful and difficult will do well to try the above, it being well known that MECI has been eminently successful in rendering shaving an easy operation. Superior Shaving Brushes, Naples Soap, and every article of first-rate quality for the Toilet.

CAUTION.—Do not buy any Strop as genuine unless MECI'S name is on it, there being so many counterfeits. Elegant Case of Razors for Presents, from 25s. to 10 guineas. Ivory-handled and Scotch Stropps.

PHOTOGRAPHIC and DAGUERREO-TYPE MINIATURES, by Mr. BEARD.

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The ALBION is a large, elegantly-furnished, first-class Hotel; situation central, quiet, and airy. Only three minutes' walk from the Railway Terminus.

TARIFF OF CHARGES.—Bed, 1s. 6d.; Breakfast, 1s. 6d.; Dinner, 2s.; Tea, 1s. 3d.; Servants, 1s. per day.

JOHN WHITE'S SPECIAL MARGUAX

CLARET, 38s. per dozen-case; Burgundy, in prime condition, 48s. per dozen.—34, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street.

JOHN WHITE'S SPARKLING CHAMPAGNE, 42s. per dozen, or £6 for a 3-dozen case.—34, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street.

JOHN WHITE'S DINNER SHERRIES, from 26s.; Duff Gordon's Sherry, 36s.—34, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street.

JOHN WHITE'S FINE OLD CRUSTED PORT, 36s. to 42s.; Unequaled, 48s. to 54s. Terms cash. All other wines of the best brands and choicest vintages, at equally moderate prices. If preferred, purchasers can be supplied at per gallon.—34, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street.

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 445.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1854.

[PRICE 6d.]

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL CENSUS OF SCOTLAND.

WHILE Voluntaries are yet engaged in manipulating the figures of the Census of England and Wales, Mr. Horace Mann effects a not unseasonable diversion, by putting into their hands another instalment of the results of his labours, of which Scotland is the subject. This new volume, which has but just issued from the Queen's Printing-office, differs, in two or three respects, from its deservedly-commended predecessor. Very general disappointment will, we believe, be felt at the absence of an introductory report similar to that which so well occupied a large proportion of that work, seeing that a comprehensive sketch of Scottish ecclesiastical parties would have been welcomed for its intrinsic interest, as well as for the completeness which it would have given to the entire ecclesiastical census. Scotchmen, however, will not, we suppose, complain of this as a new "grievance," inasmuch as they have pressed for the immediate publication of the tabular matter, as affording data for the forthcoming discussions on the Scottish Education Bill. Possibly to this circumstance, with the geographical and other local peculiarities of the country, is also to be attributed the comparative fewness of the tables—thirty-four pages comprising the ecclesiastical statistics, and the remaining seventy-seven being devoted to education. We learn, too, with less complacency, that the statistics are not complete, and cannot be made so an untoward circumstance, explained by the carelessness of both the enumerators and the numbered, who availed themselves of their knowledge of the fact, that the supply of such information was not compulsory.

The Scottish Census will not be studied with the same eagerness as the companion volume for England, just because it only confirms conclusions previously arrived at, and does not bring to light many unexpected and striking facts. Thus, it will not astonish the public on either side of the border to learn, that Scotland is better provided, relatively to its population, with religious accommodation than England. Mr. Mann's estimate, it will be remembered, requires that such accommodation should exist for 58 per cent. of the population. England actually has 57 per cent., while Scotland, exceeding that amount, has provision for 63.5 per cent.—that is, in the aggregate, for, as with us, the large towns furnish instances of decided deficiency. Taking the morning and afternoon attendance as a criterion, the proportion of attendance to sittings appears to be greater in Scotland than in England, the per centage being—in the morning, about 60; afternoon, 34; the corresponding per centage in England and Wales being—morning, 45.5; afternoon, 31.2.* The evening service is in Scotland the least frequented, the proportion to the population being 6.5 per cent., against 17.1 per cent. in England.

Proceeding from the general to the particular, we arrive at the following results bearing on the purpose which we have in view in calling the atten-

* The whole of the figures given include an estimate for defective returns.

tion of our readers to the subject. And first let us see what has been effected by the State-endowed and the Voluntary bodies respectively, in the matter of church-building.

	Places.	Sittings.
The various Dissenting bodies have	3,395	1,834,805
The Established Church of Scotland has	1,183	767,088

Dissenting preponderance 2,212 1,067,717

Voluntaryism has, therefore, achieved in brick, stone, and timber, three times as much as State-Churchism; nor has it less to boast of in a much more important department, viz., the number of worshippers within its edifices. This will be seen from the following statement of the number of attendants on March 30, 1851:—

	Morn.	Aft.	Even.
In Dissenting places of worship	943,951	619,863	188,874
In those of the Establishment	351,454	184,192	30,763

Dissenting majority 592,497 435,671 158,111

Taking as the basis of our calculation Mr. Mann's assumption, that one-half of those who attended in the morning, and one-third of those who attended in the evening, had not been at previous services, we find our way to the conclusion, that there were throughout the day, worshipping in places of worship

Belonging to Dissenters	863,136
" the Establishment	453,704

Total worshippers 1,316,840

That is, taking the Census Sunday as the test, Dissenters are nearly twice as numerous in Scotland as the worshipping members of the Establishment!

Our next point of comparison presents a striking contrast between the fortunes of the two Established Churches in England and Scotland. The last quarter of a century has made the former strong; albeit, it has been by the agency of the Voluntary principle. To the latter, a much shorter period has brought humiliation and weakness which will presently generate contempt. For, on the 18th of this month, exactly ten years will have elapsed since Dr. Chalmers, with his co-secessionists, marched in dignified array to Tanfield Hall, and there called into existence the Free Church of Scotland. This exodus of "the Frees"—as they are termed in common parlance—applied to Voluntaryism a test of no common severity; for, to quote Sir George Sinclair, "they were at the very moment waging war with Dissenters, and denouncing the Voluntary principle as the veriest impotency!" But Voluntaries may well overlook the theoretical heresy in the splendid practical result. This will be seen in the following comparison between the places of worship, and the attendances, of the old Kirk and of its now stalwart offspring:—

	Churches	Sittings	Morn.	Aft.	Even.
Established Church	1,183	676,088	351,454	184,192	30,763
Free Church	889	495,335	292,308	198,583	64,811

The proportion per cent. of attendants to sittings is as follows:—

	Morn.	Aft.	Even.
Established Church	45.8	24.0	4.0
Free Church	59.0	40.1	13.1

Remembering that these figures indicate the results of a single decade, and comparing them with those of the other Dissenting bodies whose religious machinery has been the gradual creation of successive generations, we have here supplied an illustration of the power of self-reliant zeal and liberality, which to State-Churchmen must be a phenomenon, and may be to Voluntaries themselves an occasion of admiring wonder.

The supporters of Church Establishments may regard it as a fortunate circumstance, that the ecclesiastical census is being published piecemeal, and that that of England and Wales had precedence. The return for Ireland has yet to make its appearance, but already the aggregate result is less favourable to the State-Church, as against the Voluntary principle. For the majority of places of worship provided by English Dissent is now increased, by the addition of the Scottish majority, to 7,525; the minority of Dis-

senting sittings is converted into a majority of 166,123; and the estimate of worshippers, instead of leaving Dissent in a minority of more than a quarter of a million, gives to it a majority of more than half a million! In England Dissent is nearly on a par with the Establishment; in Wales and in Scotland, and, we may venture to add, in Ireland, it is dominant.

Our purpose in this article has been statistical not objurgatory—to furnish a demonstration, not to read a homily. Yet we are unable to keep back the inquiry, How is it that Scotland, which boasts of its pre-eminent appreciation of the principles which form the basis of the Anti-State-Church movement, and has the means of giving effect to its wishes, should do so little of a practical kind to bring that movement to bear upon the proceedings of the Legislature? The "Scottish grievances" for which redress is vehemently demanded sink into insignificance, in comparison with the continued existence of a Church Establishment which, in the words of the baronet already quoted—himself one of its members—compels the Scottish people to "keep up the same number of hives, and at the same expense, although almost all the bees have deserted them." How is it that Scottish Dissenting members make their influence, as such, so much less felt than their English brethren; so that, except in respect to votes, the Voluntary cause fares no better in regard to the Legislature than though Scotland were a nation of State-Churchmen? And how is it that those who regard the spread of sound ecclesiastical views in Scotland as superfluous, do not more liberally and energetically support the English propaganda, who have a wide field of action, and who, at the same time, can wield whatever strength they possess with good practical effect?

We venture to press these inquiries as specially pertinent to the present position of ecclesiastical affairs, and in the hope that the Census Returns, the study of which has afforded to us the deepest satisfaction, may be regarded on the other side of the Tweed, not with unprofitable feelings of self-complacency, but as imposing on Scottish Voluntaries new and serious responsibility.

THE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS.

II.

THE "May meetings" occupy a large proportion of our space this day, in spite of our utmost efforts to keep them within bounds, and to eliminate whatever is superfluous and trite. Nevertheless, some are left unreported—such as the "Baptist Metropolitan Chapel Building Society"—an institution which finds ample scope for its operations in this great city, especially remarkable for its spiritual destitution and the neglect of its sanctuaries by the working-classes. Besides Chapel Building Societies, two religious agencies are specially devoted to the metropolis—the City Mission and the Christian Instruction Society. Although the one can boast of more than a million and a half of "visits" to poor families, an increase of thirty missionaries, and an augmented income; and the other, in the self-denying labours of no less than 1,500 volunteers (but not in increased resources)—yet is the lamentable confession made, that not more than six out of every 100 of the labouring population of this great capital attend a place of worship. No doubt, these and other institutions are doing their work, and are deserving of the support of the Christian public. But the religious world ought not to be satisfied with such organized efforts, however extensive and successful, but look at the question more in the light of individual responsibility. Some of the remarks of the Rev. J. H. Hinton, at the meeting of the Christian Instruction Society, are worthy of attention in connexion with this subject:

Now, he thought sometimes, that building churches and chapels was another way, not of getting at the world, but of shutting themselves out from the world, of boxing themselves up, and, as it were, of confining themselves in their places of worship, turning their backs at the same time upon the world, and almost telling it, You go one way, and we will go another. (Hear, hear.) There was nothing of this sort in the beginning of the diffusion of

the Gospel. In relation to the conversion of the world now, however, how little was there of thrusting that Gospel upon the people, and compelling them to hear! The mere question of raising churches and chapels was very much beside the mark of that conversion. Indeed, the statement made by the Census now was, that a large portion of the accommodation afforded was wholly unoccupied, and what more probable than that the case would be precisely the same were additional accommodation provided?

One of the most hopeful signs that the Christian Church is awakening to the importance of this great work, is the marked abatement of theological and polemical discussions. Sectional differences are scarcely referred to in the pulpit, and almost never on the platform. Different denominations heartily co-operate in supporting unsectarian institutions; and no meeting has been held, connected with one particular persuasion, but that it has presented on the platform representatives of others. The other day it was stated that Dr. Leifchild had long tried to bring about a fusion of Baptists and Independents. Now, we find the chairman of a Baptist meeting (in connexion with the Chapel Building Society referred to above) alluding with satisfaction to the "modification which had lately come over the views of their differing friends," as a step "in the direction of ultimate amalgamation." The Census Returns show that there are already a considerable number of congregations scattered throughout the country, comprising members of both denominations, and it seems that events are pointing to a more extensive union.

Experience has shown—although to some persons it has appeared otherwise—that the Society for the Liberation of Religion, far from being a hindrance to these desirable combinations, is helping them forward. A dominant sect is the greatest obstacle to Christian co-operation, and happily there are not wanting indications that men of piety and worth in the Establishment are dissatisfied with this position of legal dominancy—this recognition of religion based on physical force. The report of the annual meeting of the society contains nothing that can offend any friend of religious freedom, whatever his denomination. Although neither the Council, nor the public meeting were "brilliant" gatherings, much solid business was done. The very excellent report gives an interesting *résumé* of the ecclesiastical questions before Parliament, and of the work there accomplished. Instead of public meetings and lectures we read of Parliamentary committees, debates, and divisions, of small meetings for conference, and for obtaining the sinews of war. To carry on its multifarious operations the society has an income of less than £2,000! We have more than once called attention to the inadequacy of such resources to so great a work, and cannot refrain from again urging upon the friends of the movement the strong claim it has upon their sympathies. We use no other argument than the invitation to read attentively the report given elsewhere, and judge whether £5,000 a-year is too large a sum to be expended in the Anti-state-church cause, and whether such judicious and successful efforts to extend religious freedom in this country are not worthy of more active and generous support.

Respecting the remaining "May meetings," our limited space warns us to study brevity. The most eloquent feature in the proceedings of the Bible Society is its Report. This catholic institution has this year achieved its greatest triumph—having been in receipt of a larger sum than was ever obtained any religious society in the same space of time. The receipts for the past year reached £222,659, or £150,000 exclusive of sales. The Million Testament scheme for China has been signally successful—enough money having been subscribed for nearly two millions. The Jubilee Fund has reached £66,000; and yet, with these extra calls upon Christian benevolence, the ordinary receipts have been augmented more than £8,000. It will be seen, also, that the society has made a grant of 50,000 Bibles for the soldiers and sailors employed in the war, to which the Tract Society has added 400,000 tracts. This last excellent institution cannot, unfortunately, boast the success of its sister-society—for we learn by one of the resolutions, "that the grants for the year, without any charge for the expenses connected with them, have exceeded by upwards of £4,000 the whole amount of contributions received." But, notwithstanding this deficiency, the issue of their "winged messengers" may be reckoned by millions, and the *Leisure Hour* enjoys a circulation which enables it, to some extent, to compete with the current cheap literature of the day.

In general, we observe that the past year has, financially, been favourable to the principal religious societies. Thus the Church Missionary Society has augmented its resources to the extent of £7,867, making an aggregate income of nearly £132,000. By the opportune help of a "munificent bequest," the receipts of the Wesleyan Missionary Society are swollen beyond their last year's amount. It is gratifying to know that the improvement in the funds of foreign societies has not been effected at the expense of domestic missions.

TOTAL ABOLITION OF CHURCH-RATES.

Sir William Clay's motion for the total abolition of Church-rates is now fixed for Tuesday, the 23rd. inst. The Society for the Liberation of Religion are on the alert, and have issued a circular, signed by Dr. Foster, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, calling the attention of the opponents of the impost to the fact, and enclosing the annexed form of petition. We trust that the appeal will be promptly responded to by all who are desirous of aiding in the movement. At the present moment, when rival schemes for the settlement of the much-vexed question are before Parliament, based upon compromise, it is especially desirable that Dissenters, and all friends of religious equality, should let the House of Commons know that nothing less than the total repeal of Church-rates will satisfy the country. Petitions to Parliament just now will have great weight in determining the question. We trust that the appeal of the society to send up petitions, and request members to support their prayer, will be promptly and generally responded to. If not sent to local members, they can be forwarded to the office of the Society, 41, Ludgate Hill.

FORM OF PETITION.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The humble Petition of the [undersigned], or, as the case may be,

SHewETH,—That your petitioners look with much satisfaction upon the proposals lately made in your honourable House, as evidencing a disposition to abandon those compulsory exactions for religious purposes which so many of her Majesty's subjects have shown that they regard as unnecessary, unjust, and oppressive to the conscience.

That the evidence furnished by the late Census conclusively establishes the necessity of a speedy settlement of this long-vexed question.

That in the anticipation of legislative measures respecting Church-rates, your petitioners feel bound respectfully but earnestly to declare, that no legislation can be satisfactory or final which does not provide for the total abolition of Church-rates under any form whatsoever.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your honourable House to pass a bill for the total abolition of such rates.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

* * The above form is intended merely as a suggestion, and may usefully be varied at the discretion of the signers.

By the Standing Orders of the House of Commons, petitions must be in writing: each petitioner must sign his own name only: at least one signature must be on the sheet containing the petition. Petitions sent by post to a Member of Parliament (but not to any other person) are free of postage, if enclosed in a piece of paper which is left open at both ends, and marked "Petition." Where time is important, they may be addressed to the member at the House of Commons; but in such case, a letter should be previously addressed to him at his private residence, acquainting him that petitions will be ready for him at the House.

It is suggested that the signatures to petitions, &c., should by no means be confined to Dissenters, many Churchmen being favourable to the object sought.

CHURCH-RATES.—A Birmingham correspondent says:—"Sir William Clay, M.P., having given a notice on Church-rates for the 23rd of May, it is important that those who are in possession of authentic information of successful efforts for their repeal should furnish them to him without delay. In Birmingham there has been no Church-rate for many years."

THE CONTEST AT ST. BARNABAS, PIMLICO.—During the recent contest for the Churchwardenship of St. Paul and St. Barnabas, Pimlico, party spirit ran so high that the Reverend Mr. Lowder, one of the curates of St. Barnabas, incited the lads employed as choristers to pelt with eggs a man carrying a placard for the opposition candidate. Some gentlemen waited on Mr. Lowder, and he admitted but regretted his offence. Subsequently, he was summoned before the Westminster magistrate; he repeated his regret, recompensed the board-man, and the matter was allowed to drop, after the magistrate had expressed a hope that no such unseemly proceedings would occur again. In the civil jurisdiction the matter was allowed to drop, but the Bishop of London took it up for serious expostulation.

THE CASE GILPIN v. FOWLER.—Our readers will recollect that, in the appeal case, Gilpin v. Fowler, in the Exchequer Chamber Sittings in Error, in February last, a new trial was directed; the Court ruling, in reversion of the Chief Baron's decision, that the letter of the clerical defendant was not a privileged communication, and that there was evidence of malice to go to a jury. The matter has since been privately settled, the defendant consenting to pay the costs on both sides, which must be considerable; and Mr. Gilpin has shown his good feeling by accepting of this arrangement, his own character being sufficiently vindicated. So far as the public are concerned, the only point of importance was, the plea set up of clerical privilege, by sanctioning which the judgment of the Chief Baron tended to throw the shield of official impunity around any village Phillpotts who might hereafter think proper to issue a libellous pastoral denouncing any of his parishioners. That point has now been set at rest; and, as the case will be upon the books, the public have no further concern in the matter.—*Patriot*.

CHURCH-RATES AT HOUGHTON, HUNTS.—The quiet of this peaceable village was disturbed on Thursday last by a vestry being called by the churchwardens for the purpose of making a Church-rate. On the

proposal to make a rate of one penny in the pound, Mr. G. W. Brown, after a very eloquent and forcible address, moved, as an amendment, that the expenses should be met by a voluntary contribution. This amendment, having been seconded, was, after a short discussion as to whether the chairman was legally able to put it to the meeting, rejected. Mr. B. Brown then proposed, as an amendment, that no rate at all be made. The pro-rate party having refused a voluntary contribution, which he would guarantee on the part of the Dissenters, they ought not to levy a rate. Mr. Butcher seconded this amendment, contending that Church-rates were unjust and unchristian. A show of hands was taken on the amendment, and a poll demanded thereon, at the close of which a small majority decided against the amendment. The rector's churchwarden, who is also the village squire, canvassed very actively in favour of the rate, devoting even a portion of the previous Sabbath to this *holy* duty. The liberality of the Messrs. Brown is shown, not only in guaranteeing the full quota of the cost of the repairs agreed to be paid by the Dissenters, but in abstaining from all interference with the men in their employ, who were left at perfect liberty to vote as they pleased; their foreman rather offensively interfering, to show how independent he was in voting against his employers' amendment. On the other hand, the parties who receive a pittance of coals, or soup, or blankets, from the Church party, as well as from the Dissenters, declared that they must vote for the Church; if they did not, they would lose their gifts, but by voting in favour of the Dissenters, they should forfeit nothing from them.—*From a Correspondent*

Religious and Educational Intelligence.

RETIREMENT OF THE REV. DR. LEIFCHILD.

A valedictory service, on the occasion of the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Leifchild from the pastorate, was held on Tuesday last, in Craven Chapel, Marshall-street, Golden-square. The Rev. Drs. Leifchild, Morrison, Archer, Hamilton, and Redford; and the Revs. J. Ashby, Robinson, J. Stratton, J. Aldis, J. W. Richardson, and S. Thodey (of Rodborough), attended, and took part in the proceedings. There were also present the Revs. T. Binney, W. M. Bunting, J. D. Smith (Dublin), W. Leask, E. Mannering, H. J. Gamble, J. Adey, J. Shedlock, J. Wilkins, J. Smith, J. R. Leifchild, James Davis, and numerous other ministers.

After some devotional services, the Rev. JAMES STRATTON delivered an eulogy upon the ministry and character of Dr. Leifchild, whom he had known for forty-two years.

The Rev. Dr. REDFORD came forward as a country brother to witness the honour a devoted church paid to their beloved pastor, and to testify how much the country sympathised with them in pouring honour upon that venerable man. He appeared before them as the Doctor's oldest friend on the platform, having known him more than fifty years.

EDWARD SWAINE, Esq., one of the senior deacons, then read a statement of the progress of the church. Craven Chapel was built by the late venerated Thomas Wilson, and opened in December, 1822, and was supplied for eight years by various ministers. In 1830, the Rev. J. Leifchild, of Bristol, was invited to the pastorate, and had occupied that position to the present time. "The result fully justified the choice. The large attendance was not merely maintained but increased. The church, consisting, when the Doctor (then Mr.) Leifchild came, of 260 members, rose, in the course of years, to more than 800; while societies for various Christian objects multiplied and flourished under his assiduous care. The debt, exceeding £7,000, was paid, and the Congregational ministry was represented, in this part of the metropolis, with a power and an amount of public credit previously unknown." For a succession of years this high prosperity had continued. In consequence of declining years, however, Dr. Leifchild "announced the purpose to resign, which is this day fulfilled amid sympathies and feelings too strong and varied for description; but all testifying to the high esteem in which the honoured minister of Christ is held by his flock and the Christian public at large, and the sincerity with which the prayer will arise, from many hearts, that the pure and guiding light which he has so long been instrumental in diffusing, may shine softly upon his remaining path, and that of the beloved partner of his days, still brightening as they approach its everlasting source, and verge on the perfect day." The church now consists of some 600 members. GEORGE WILSON, Esq., then addressed the meeting, reviewing the career of the Rev. Doctor, and bearing witness to his high character, talents, and devotion, as a minister of the Gospel.

How fertile has been his imagination, and how laborious and successful his efforts in this way, may be judged by the fact, that there are now connected with this chapel no less than fourteen societies in active and constant operation. One of these employs about 100 of the members as Christian Instruction visitors. There is not time in this brief address to enumerate them all. Some judgment of the result of his exertions in this way may be formed from the fact, that, including the debt on the chapel, which when he came was about £7,000 (all of which was paid off many years ago), no less a sum than about £70,000 had been raised within these walls during his pastorate for the support of the ministry, for the relief of the poor, for Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Bibles, tracts, schools, Christian Instruction Societies, the Jews, benevolent societies, and other agencies for the extension of our common Christianity, and otherwise alleviating the spiritual and temporal necessities of our fellow-men.

He also alluded to the testimonial which had been

started, and in which ministers and members of various denominations most heartily concurred. That testimonial would be presented on Saturday, the 4th of June, the anniversary of the marriage of Dr. and Mrs. Leifchild. Dr. LEIFCHILD responded in an address full of congratulations and gratitude.

It was in my heart to live and die among this people; but I bow to His decree, that renders it vain to strive against the law of my being. I put off the armour at His bidding, at whose command I put it on, and by whose help I have worn and wielded it in fighting the battles of the Lord. I shall not, indeed, quit the ministry—(hear, hear)—but, as long as I am able, in whatever place, preach Christ. But I must now resign my pastorate into the hands of those from whom I received it, with the testimony of my own conscience, that, in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, I have had my conversation in the world, and more especially to you-ward. It is not a correct course alone that is sufficient to shield us from the shaft of calumny, and most correct men have sometimes suffered from that quarter; and I am confident, from the malice of Satan against every successful opposer of his kingdom, that all of us would suffer, but for the shielding and protecting care of Divine providence. To that I owe it that the breath of slander has not been permitted to taint my name.

Another hymn was then sung; and the Rev. Dr. HAMILTON, the Rev. Dr. ARCHER, and the Rev. J. ALDIS, briefly addressed the congregation, upon the subjects of Christian union, ministerial concord, and brotherly love. The Rev. Dr. MORISON closed the proceedings with an address to the church on its duties and responsibilities.

In the evening, a handsome dinner was given to Dr. Leifchild, at Freemason's-hall, when a large company assembled.—John Brown, Esq., presiding; the Doctor being seated on his right hand. At the cross table, among other ministers and gentlemen there were: Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P.; Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P.; George Hitchcock, Esq.; Samuel Morley, Esq.; George Wilson, Esq.; Rev. Dr. Morison, Rev. Dr. Redford, Rev. Dr. Stowell, Rev. T. Binney, Rev. E. Prout, Rev. John Robinson, Professor Godwin, Rev. J. R. Leifchild, Rev. W. Kirkus, LL.B., Edward Swaine, Esq.; and among the general company were Henry Bateman, Esq., Thomas Thompson, Esq., W. Leifchild, Esq., Peter Broad, Esq., Daniel Pratt, Esq., Rev. George Smith, Rev. Henry Richard, Rev. John Aldis, Rev. Henry J. Gamble, Rev. William Leask, Rev. George Wilkins, Rev. J. C. Gallaway, Rev. James Smith, Rev. S. B. Berne, Rev. S. J. Davis, Rev. E. Mannering, Rev. R. H. Herschell, Rev. G. Wilkins, Rev. John Adey, Rev. J. W. Richardson, Rev. R. Hamilton, and many others. Letters expressive of cordial sympathy and deep regret at unavoidable absence were read from the Rev. Dr. Harris, Rev. W. Brock, and the Rev. Baldwin Brown; many other letters were also announced as having been received.

The CHAIRMAN, in an affecting speech, alluded to the event which they so much deplored. Afterwards, turning to Dr. Leifchild, Mr. Brown continued:—

Now, my dear Sir, the brethren that are with me greet you, and the sisters also. (Loud cheers.) [Dr. Leifchild rose, and the chairman took him by the hand, saying:]—In the name of this large assembly of our Christian friends, people, and church, I tender you the hand of salutation and most affectionate regard. Our affection will go with you wherever you go—will dwell with you where you dwell; and may God in his mercy shine upon you, and upon your true yokefellow, Mrs. Leifchild. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

Dr. LEIFCHILD, after a brief pause, rose, amid loud and repeated cheering, the company rising simultaneously from their seats, and said:—

Sir, I am filled with surprise. Little did I expect, when I announced my intention to retire from the pastorate, that it would lead to such a meeting as the present. I could not have supposed that such an event would have awakened any interest beyond the circle of my own immediate friends and congregation. I might perhaps have expected some little testimonial from them; but that it should come from others in different parts of the country and of different denominations, in the way that has been mentioned, is what I could not possibly have anticipated. It must, therefore, be the result of the impulse of their own generous minds. Indeed, it is but of late that I was aware of this movement taking place, and I do not even know the names of my friends; but I hope I shall know afterwards, to remember them in my prayers; and I therefore value the thing the more for the spontaneous manner in which it has been done. Give me leave to say, that the value of the testimonial which may be given to me is greatly enhanced by the kind, the considerate, and the delicate manner in which it has been effected. (Cheers.)

Dr. Leifchild went on to allude to the principles which had guided his course as a minister of the Gospel, to his endeavours to extend the hand of fellowship to Christians of all denominations, and his aim to preach the Gospel in all its purity and integrity. Warm-hearted fraternal addresses were subsequently delivered by the Rev. Thomas Binney, Samuel Morley, Esq., George Hitchcock, Esq., Mr. William Leifchild (brother of the Doctor), Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P., George Wilson, Esq. (who read a beautiful address from the Ladies of the Church and Congregation of Craven Chapel to Mrs. Leifchild), Rev. J. R. Leifchild (Dr. Leifchild's only son), Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P., and other gentlemen.

THE REV. HENRY LINGS, late of Accrington, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the Congregational Church at Fleetwood, Lancashire.

BRYN, LLANELLY.—The Rev. John Thomas, of Rock Chapel, Rhymney, has accepted an unanimous invitation from the church and congregation in the above place, and intends commencing his pastoral duties there on Lord's-day, June 25th.

WANDSWORTH.—The Rev. G. Palmer Davies, being

compelled to resign the pastoral charge on account of ill-health, a farewell meeting of the church and congregation has been held, presided over by the Rev. R. Ashton, and attended by many neighbouring ministers at which resolutions of confidence, sympathy, and affection, were adopted. In the course of the meeting, the Senior Deacon presented Mr. Davies with £130, contributed by the church, congregation, and a few other friends, as an expression of esteem and affection.

RAGGED SCHOOLS IN LONDON.—At the twelfth annual meeting of the friends of the Field Lane Ragged and Industrial School and Nightly Refuge for the Destitute, held on Wednesday night, the Earl of Shaftesbury said that there were already no less than 106 of these schools, educating upwards of 2,000 of the poor little fellows by whom the streets of London were infested. The results of last year had been, that twenty boys had been returned to their friends; eighty-five taken into reformatory institutions, of which eight had been emigrated; and 112 placed in situations.

SURBITON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SURREY.—The foundation-stone of a new place of worship in the centre of the neighbourhood rising round the Kingston Railway Station, was laid on Thursday the 27th of April. The building is in the Anglo-Norman style, and is being erected by Messrs. Wilson and Fuller, of Bath, for a congregation gathered under the ministry of the Rev. R. H. Smith jun. The stone was laid in the presence of a numerous assembly, by W. Leavers, Esq., of Surbiton, who has given £500 to the Building Fund, and is the treasurer of the undertaking. The Rev. T. Binney then delivered an admirable address. Prayer was afterwards offered by the Rev. L. H. Byrnes, B. A., at whose suggestion the first steps in the movement were taken. On the Monday following, the Rev. David Thomas, of Stockwell, presided at the formation of a church, composed of members of the congregation who had been previously connected with various churches.

BAAZAR.—The committee of the Institution for the Sons and Orphans of Missionaries have made arrangements for a bazaar, to be held at the Hall of Commerce, on the days mentioned in the advertisement which appears in this day's *Nonconformist*, in aid of the funds for the erection of a home and school for the sons of missionaries who are now labouring among the heathen. Many of the missionaries in China, India, and elsewhere, have sent over valuable contributions. There are also noble presents from various parts of the continent and this country. Now, as the bazaar will fail unless there are many customers, we sincerely hope the attendance of the friends of missions will be very large. It appears there are about fifty boys in the school, which is charged with a heavy rental in order to their accommodation, which will, of course, be saved to the institution when the necessary funds are raised to meet the expenses of a new building.

OPENING OF CRAVEN-HILL CHAPEL, BAYSWATER.

—This spacious and handsome chapel, which has been erected by the London Congregational Chapel-building Society, in conjunction with the Rev. G. R. Birch, who is now its minister, was opened for public worship on Tuesday, May 2nd. The morning service was commenced at twelve o'clock. The devotional parts of it were conducted by the Revs. J. Harrison, of Camden-town; R. Herschell, of Edgeware-road; J. Roberts, of Notting-hill; C. Dukes, of Kingland; and C. Gilbert, one of the Secretaries of the Society. The Rev. Dr. Harris preached a very impressive sermon. The collection amounted to £90, including a cheque for £50 from one gentleman. After the morning service, a party of about fifty ministers and gentlemen, with a few ladies, sat down to a cold collation in the school-room underneath the chapel. The chair was taken by J. W. Puget, Esq., of Tottenham, and among the company were the Revs. Dr. Harris, J. Harrison, —Lewis (of Westbourne Chapel), J. Roberts, J. E. Ashby, W. Owen, C. Dukes, J. M. Charlton, S. J. Leblond, C. Gilbert, T. Davies, &c.; also J. Wilson, Esq.; J. Finch, Esq.; E. Smith, Esq.; H. Spicer, Esq.; J. Conder, Esq., &c. At the dinner, the various speakers expressed their sense of the value of the London Congregational Chapel Building Society; and Mr. Eusebius Smith explained the circumstances connected with the erection of the chapel, and the occupation of its pulpit by Mr. Birch. It was not the custom of the society to build chapels for existing churches, or for individual ministers, but the present case was a justifiable exception to their ordinary rule. Mr. Birch had discovered the site, which was freehold; two gentlemen (Mr. Wilson and Mr. Finch) had kindly advanced the money to secure it, with a view to Mr. Birch's ministry; and he (Mr. Birch) had further engaged to obtain £2,000 towards the cost, if the committee would undertake the erection. Under such circumstances, and in view of the necessities of the growing neighbourhood, the eligibility of the site, and the high character of Mr. Birch, the committee had thought it their duty to accept the proposal. The cost of the chapel had been increased to the extent of nearly one-third by the advances which had taken place in the price of building materials and labour; it was, therefore, most important that the liberality of the friends of the society should be increased also. Mr. Smith concluded by expressing the sympathy of the committee with Mr. Birch, and their fervent hope that he would be sustained and prospered by the Divine blessing in the important work upon which he had entered. In the evening, a very impressive sermon was delivered to a crowded congregation by the Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel. The opening services will be continued next Lord's-day, by the Rev. A. Pope, of Leamington, in the morning; and the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of Regent-square, in the evening. On the following Sabbath, the Rev. G. R. Birch will commence his stated ministry. The chapel is in the Gothic style, with a nave and transept, but without pillars, or any appendage in the slightest degree inconsistent

with the convenience or simplicity of Christian worship. It affords sittings for upwards of 1,000 persons, with large and lofty school-rooms and convenient vestries. The entire cost of the building has been about £5,200.

Anniversary Meetings.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION FROM STATE PATRONAGE AND CONTROL.

The annual gatherings of this body took place on Wednesday last in the metropolis. The Council met for business at Radley's Hotel, at noon, and notwithstanding that at the society's last Conference the number of this body was considerably reduced, we think we observed nearly the same attendance as on former occasions.

WILLIAM EDWARDS Esq., the Treasurer, occupied the chair, and after giving an outline of the business to be transacted, called upon the Secretary to read the

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Report commences by alluding to the measures adopted for promoting organization for practical purposes, and largely and permanently augmenting the society's pecuniary resources. It referred to the meeting held a few weeks ago, when a subscription list for the next three years was started, comprising sums varying from £50 per annum downwards. It was hoped that the metropolis would contribute one-fifth of the income needed. Similar measures have been taken in various provincial towns, and various contributions have been received from not a few individuals previously unconnected with the association. Reference is then made to the Census Returns and to the deductions which may be drawn from it, a summary of which had been published and circulated to the extent of several thousand copies. "The committee have also in preparation, and will shortly issue, a more elaborate work, bringing out in detail all the facts of the Census illustrating the relative action of the compulsory and the voluntary systems, and which will form a companion to the volume they have already published—"The Test of Experience; or, the Voluntary Principle in the United States." Individual efforts to circulate widely each of these publications will be regarded by the committee as seasonable and valuable service."

It will be remembered by the council, that one of the most important proposals submitted to the Conference, was the formation of two committees, for Parliamentary and for electoral action respectively, which committees, it was suggested, should be affiliated with the society, but possess independent powers. The paper embodying such suggestion was referred by the Conference to the committee, with a recommendation that the scheme should be carried into effect, so far as, upon mature consideration, it might be deemed expedient and practicable. The committee were unwilling to take upon themselves the responsibility of carrying it out in its integrity, before making the proposed effort to increase the society's income; but, the session of Parliament approaching, they resolved to make immediate provision for bringing the society's influence to bear with increasing effect upon the ecclesiastical proceedings of the Legislature—year by year growing in interest and significance. They accordingly determined, as an experimental measure, to constitute a sub-committee, formed of members of their own body, to undertake the duties described in detail in the paper already referred to. To give full effect to such intention, they ventured to appoint, as the salaried chairman of the sub-committee, a gentleman qualified for the post by professional knowledge, social position, and earnest attachment to the society's principles—Dr. Foster, Professor of Jurisprudence at University College. Desirous of acting in union with other bodies, existing for analogous purposes they, on the 20th of February last, addressed a communication to the committee of the "Dissenting Deputies," explaining at length the intended operations of the sub-committee, and suggesting that the union of the two bodies, or, should that be impracticable, their co-operation for certain specific purposes, would be likely to secure harmonious and influential action in all legislative matters affecting the rights of conscience and the principles of religious equality. The committee have been informed that the matter has been under consideration, but they have not yet received a reply to their proposal.

Full scope has been afforded to the activity of the society by the Parliamentary business of the present session, scarcely a week having elapsed which has not found the House of Commons engaged in the discussion of ecclesiastical topics, several of which have demanded the close attention of the newly constituted sub-committee and of its chairman.

A private bill having been brought in, providing for the erection of a new church at Stoke Newington, by a mortgage on parochial property now applied to the repairs of the existing church, and for the recovery of voluntary subscriptions by suits at law, and of pew-rents by distraint, assistance was gladly afforded to the local committee opposed to the bill, which, as the result, was summarily rejected on the second reading.

Mr. Fagan having proposed the abolition of "Ministers' Money"—a tax levied on the inhabitants of certain Roman Catholic towns in Ireland for the benefit of the Protestant inhabitants—exertions were put forth to obtain for it the support of English Liberal members. Opposed by the Government—apparently bent on retaining even the most vexatious characteristics of the Establishment—Mr. Fagan's motion was lost by a majority of only fifteen votes (103 against 88), the Government subsequently introducing, after another division, the bill of last session; professedly reducing the amount of the tax, and so levying it as to render more facile its collection from a reluctant people. This bill was carried only after determined opposition and frequent divisions, in the course of which upwards of 160 Liberal members gave their votes against the policy of the Government. It remains to be seen whether the Irish Roman Catholics will allow the question to be thus disposed of, and whether the Government will profit from the firm resistance offered by a large section of their supporters to so discreditable a compromise.

In proposing to continue certain Church Building Acts, allowed to be in a "disgraceful state" and to involve principles requiring careful re-consideration, the Government were less successful, having thought it prudent to yield to the unwearied opposition of Mr. Hadfield, and to consent to the renewal of the acts for a period of two years only.

The Marquis of Blandford has renewed his efforts for the improvement of the administration of episcopal and caputular revenues, so as to make available, for Church purposes, half-a-million per annum, alleged to be now wasted by mis-management.

As, however, the bill introduced for this object so disposes of any surplus which may arise, as to preclude its application to other than the purposes to which the funds are now devoted, an obvious substitute for Church-rates and similar exactions is, and as is believed, not undesignedly forestalled, and the committee will therefore continue to oppose it in its present shape. A second measure of Church Reform, in the Bill of Dr. Phillimore forbidding the sale of next presentations to livings, has been rejected in a spirit of Erastianism calculated to give a violent shock to the susceptibilities of pious members of the Church Establishment, who have been furnished by the debate on the second reading with unequivocal evidence, that the supporters of that Establishment in Parliament regard vested interests and the rights of property as objects paramount in importance to the spiritual welfare of those for whose benefit it professedly exists. Under such circumstances the intervention of the committee would have been superfluous.

The committee have shared in the doubts which have perplexed the acutest members of the House of Commons, as to the precise object and effect of the bill for the removal of the alleged disabilities of Episcopalians in the colonies. But, having the assurance of one of the law officers of the Crown, that the Church in the colonies is part of the Church of England in the mother-country, and remembering that the Colonial Bishops receive their appointments from the Home Government, and thereby acquire local status and prestige, and that both they and their clergy are sedulously endeavouring to acquire pre-eminence, privileges, and pecuniary support at the expense of other denominations in the colonies, the committee deem it unwise to remove those restraints which the supporters of Church Establishments admit to be needful here, and which can affect colonial Episcopalians only as they may choose to put themselves in the position of members of the State-favoured Church. The committee have therefore united in attempts to modify the Bill which have been partially successful. Its ultimate fate is uncertain; but they regard the debates which have taken place upon it as valuable, from the disavowal on all sides of any desire to inflict a Church Establishment on the colonies, and from the difficulties which are seen to result from the interference of the Legislature in religious matters.

Of the class of incidents now under review, the most important has been the recommencement of a movement for the abolition of the religious tests by which Dissenters from the Church of England are precluded enjoying the educational advantages afforded by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The circumstances under which a claim held in abeyance for years is now again urged, strikingly illustrate the tendency of events to favour the designs of such a society as this. A prevailing desire to raise the national standard of education obliged the Government to institute an inquiry into the state of the Universities, with a view to their reform. Such investigation, with the legislation which it shadowed forth, could be justified only on the assumed right of Parliament to deal with the Universities as national institutions. The commissioners appointed were members of the Church of England, and were not authorised to entertain the question of the admission of Dissenters; notwithstanding which, several of the witnesses—Churchmen and clergymen—condemned the existing tests as injurious to education and to morality, and the reports of the commissioners contain unmistakable indications of their own bias in the same direction. The publication of the Census of Religious Worship, following the appearance of the reports of the commissioners, completed the case for the abolition of the tests, by making it evident that their effect is to give to a minority privileges which are the rightful property of the entire people.

In view of these facts, the committee felt that the Non-conformist body could not, without unfaithfulness to their principles, and a disregard of the public interests, refrain from insisting that the promised measure for reforming the University of Oxford should open its doors to all without distinction of sect or creed. They, therefore, at once prepared to appeal to the country with that object, not a little encouraged by the circumstance, that more than 100 members of the House of Commons had memorialized Lord John Russell with the same purpose, and had received an assurance of his own sympathy, though the Government had decided not to make any proposal on the subject.

The committee thereupon adopted and widely advertised resolutions embodying their views—communicated with the various Dissenting bodies and with numerous individuals throughout the country, urging them to promote petitions to Parliament and to exert their influence upon individual members—sought to obtain the aid of the press, and circulated publications furnishing information relative to the history and results of the tests sought to be repealed.

They have much gratification in reporting that, as the fruit of these efforts, in conjunction with those of other bodies, there have already been presented above 300 petitions, having the signatures of above 20,000 persons. These petitions have emanated from meetings, congregations, colleges, literary institutions, and from the municipal councils of Oxford and Cambridge, and other corporate towns; and among the subscribers there have been a considerable number of members of the Church of England.

Without acquiescing in the exclusive policy which it maintained, the committee and their friends in Parliament were reluctant to obstruct the Government measure, which, at its introduction, was regarded as valuable in itself, and as likely to hasten the adoption of their own particular views. They, therefore, abstained from opposing the second reading of the bill, but finding that its merits fell short of the expectations originally held out, and that it was likely to increase the ecclesiastical character of the University, they supported the proposal of Mr. Heywood to refer the bill to a select committee, as the only course which would enable Dissenters effectually to bring before the House and the country their hitherto excluded case. Ninety-two members (including tellers) voted in favour of Mr. Heywood's amendment,—a number which, it is

known, will be considerably increased on the discussion of the clauses to be proposed in committee. Whatever may be the result of the divisions to which the committee now look forward, it is clearly the duty of Nonconformists to put forth their utmost strength in the assertion of claims, which, if persistently urged, must sooner or later be conceded.

The length at which the committee have dwelt on Parliamentary questions already discussed, or now before the public, prevents their calling attention to more than one of the several ecclesiastical topics that have yet to be dealt with.

They have observed with great interest the cheering effect of the Braintree Church-rate decision, in inciting to unwonted efforts the opponents of taxation for religious purposes. From a register which they have kept, it appears that in the majority of instances attempts to levy a Church-rate have been decisively defeated—that such opposition has extended to the smaller towns and to the rural districts—that a settled conviction is becoming generally prevalent, that religious edifices must be maintained by other means than those which violate the recognised principles of justice—and that the members of the Church of England are becoming reconciled to the idea of abandoning the present system.

This being the case, the committee are not surprised that from both Government and Opposition benches measures should be announced for terminating a state of things so disadvantageous to the Establishment. But they are not sanguine in their anticipation of the result. If the promise of Lord Palmerston be fulfilled, the ecclesiastical tactics of the Coalition Government justify a fear that his bill will be unsatisfactory; and, in default of a measure of their own, the Ministry will probably renew their opposition to the proposal of Sir William Clay; while Mr. Packer's expressed intention to "relieve Dissenters in certain cases" only is equally unpromising. The committee, therefore, urge their friends to take the settlement of Church-rates into their own hands, by extinguishing them in their respective parishes, animated by the consciousness, that success there will ultimately ensure success in Parliament.

The increased number of contests which have taken place have led to the receipt of numerous communications soliciting from the committee information on legal and other points, and also publications suitable for distribution. In such cases they have been happy to afford the assistance it has been in their power to give, and that if may still be rendered they propose issuing a work in the nature of a legal Manual, as well as additional tracts and handbills bearing on the question at issue.

As the committee have found that the possession of a shop in a leading thoroughfare is not required for carrying on the society's publishing business, and the lease of the premises they now occupy will expire in 1856, they have thought it prudent to relieve themselves from responsibility, by accepting an advantageous offer for the remainder of the term. They are, therefore, in treaty for the occupancy of eligible offices, on which they hope shortly to enter.

In conclusion, the committee advert to other departments of action, pointing out the desirableness of the formation, as soon as possible, of a committee for electoral purposes, of arrangements for lectures, &c., during the next winter, and adding to their stock of publications. These schemes must depend, to some extent, upon the augmentation of the society's income. The report concluded by a reference to the present circumstances of the country, which called for increased vigilance and activity from the friends of the society.

At the conclusion of the report, which was much cheered at particular points and at the close, the treasurer presented his account, from which it appears that the total receipts, during the year, have been £1,789 16s. 11d.; the expenditure, £1,489 15s. 3d.; leaving a balance at the banker's, on the 1st of May, of £300 1s. 8d. The Treasurer added, that £75 had been received since the report was made up, and that a portion of the funds in hand belonged to the Conference account.

Mr. SAMUEL MORLEY moved:—

That in receiving and adopting the Report of the Executive Committee, now read, the Council expresses its pleasure and thankfulness at the results, already apparent, of the recent changes in the society's constitution and modes of procedure, and includes the hope that continued accessions to the ranks of its supporters will render the institution an increasingly powerful agency for the accomplishment of its arduous work.

He expressed intense satisfaction at the Parliamentary proceedings of the committee, which were working admirably. He hoped that the society's hands would be strengthened in this department, and that it would be made a prominent one. The projected electoral body was of no less importance, and in some respects of greater. He approved, also, of the kind of meetings which had lately been held, and which, if multiplied, would remove the ignorance which yet existed respecting the society's object, and obtain valuable accessions. The public meetings might advantageously be suspended for this purpose, though lectures on specific subjects ought not to be neglected. (Hear, hear.) He hoped shortly to visit Bradford and Huddersfield, to advance the society's interests there. (Cheers.) Referring to the University question,—as the father of five sons he protested against tests which would prevent his sending them to Oxford or Cambridge if he desired to place them there, and he honoured Mr. Hadfield for his spirited conduct on the subject in the House, and thanked Mr. Miall for his vindication of that gentleman. Everything promised well for the future, if they would only remain faithful to their cause, and vigorously labour for it. (Cheers.)

Mr. C. JONES, of Denmark-hill, seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

The Rev. J. BURNET moved:—

That the liberality already evinced in response to the appeal of the committee justifies the belief that, by the continuance of vigorous efforts, the income of the society may be increased to the extent desired, and that the council expresses a hope that the society's friends throughout the country will promptly and zealously assist in seeking to realize so desirable an object.

Mr. EVEREST (Rochester) in seconding the motion, urged that the society's efforts should be directed to the agricultural portion of the community, who, now that the corn-laws were repealed, stood in a new position in respect to this question.

Mr. WILLIS (Luton) said that the members of the council resident in his town—eight-tenths of the inhabitants of which were Dissenters—intended to invite a number of friends to a private entertainment to see what could be done in support of the society.

The Rev. J. MURSELL said that the same course had been determined on at Kettering, where Church-rate contests had disturbed previously existing good feeling, and where, therefore, nothing was now to be gained by not speaking out. Some of the firmest supporters of Church-rates were beginning to give way on the point.

Mr. BAINES (Leicester) said that there was a growing attachment to the society's movement in his town. He recommended personal efforts to obtain subscriptions, as the devotion of their time to the work by gentlemen well known in their localities had a good influence. (Hear.)

Mr. MIALI suggested that parties wishing to assist in putting the society on a new footing in their own neighbourhoods, by such modes as had been suggested, should at once communicate with the committee.

Mr. MORLEY strongly recommended the holding of private meetings to enforce the society's claims, and that special pains should be taken to obtain the presence of gentlemen not at present belonging to the society. (Hear.)

Mr. P. CRELLIN, jun., suggested that the London members of the council should meet periodically, and arrange for sectional meetings (hear);—a recommendation concurred in by Mr. TEMPLETON, who said, that by personal efforts the Islington subscriptions had been increased nearly fourfold. (Hear.) The resolution having passed,

Mr. J. COPEMAN (Norwich) moved:—

That the council cordially approves of the step taken by the Executive Committee in the formation of a Parliamentary sub-committee, having Dr. Foster as its chairman; that it has pleasure in already recognising the beneficial results following the appointment of such body, and anticipates that the increased attention given by the society to the ecclesiastical business of Parliament will prove highly advantageous to the Nonconforming community and tend to advance the society's ultimate object.

He had looked forward with high anticipation to the labours of Mr. Miall and others in the House, and he had not been disappointed. (Cheers.) What had already been done afforded a happy augury of the future.

Mr. J. COOK, jun., having seconded the motion, Mr. MIALI said he could bear disinterested testimony to the value of the services of the sub-committee and of its chairman. The influence of those services was felt in the House, where they had now become a power. Not a week passed in which they were not doing something calculated to advance their principles; and members not connected with them, but identified with forward political movements, were getting quite sick of ecclesiastical questions, which made it unsafe for them ever to be absent. The number of petitions for opening the Universities had far surpassed the expectation of Liberal members, and had produced a considerable effect, it being felt that the object sought for was not sectarian. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. FOSTER, in acknowledging complimentary references to himself, urged that Liberal members not yet communicated with about the Oxford Bill should be looked up immediately.

Mr. WILLIS said, that at Luton, instead of adopting the Burial Act, they had resolved to provide a cemetery on the joint-stock principle, which would be unconsecrated.

The resolution was then carried.

The Rev. R. MACHETH (Hammersmith) moved:—

That the council has heard with special pleasure the report of the committee's proceedings, in calling public attention to the subject of University Tests, with a view to their abolition. That it rejoices in the response given to their appeal by the presentation to the House of Commons of more than 300 petitions, signed by upwards of 20,000 persons, for the introduction into the Oxford University Reform Bill of clauses effecting that object; and urges a continued labour, both now and in future sessions of Parliament, until the National Universities are made available for all classes of the community.

In the course of his remarks he expressed an opinion that the activity of the society in dealing with practical questions would be likely to secure the adhesion of several who had not countenanced its previous agitation.

Mr. FRANK CROSSLEY, M.P., was astonished at the number of petitions already presented. He recommended that those not yet sent should be presented by the local members, whether favourable to the prayer or not, as it would let them know what their Dissenting constituents wished. (Hear, hear.) The resolution having passed, the Rev. J. H. HINTON moved, and the Rev. J. MURSELL seconded, and it was resolved,—

That the Census of Religious Worship of 1851 is regarded by the council as furnishing authoritative and conclusive evidence in favour of the principles advocated by this society. That the injustice involved in the existence of the Church Establishment is thereby made increasingly apparent; while the magnitude of the religious enterprises, both within and without the Church of England, which have been sustained solely by the agency of the Voluntary principle, has finally destroyed the dogma that religion cannot exist without the patronage and the resources of the State. That the council therefore recommends the wide distribution of the society's publications, embodying the facts of the Census, as being calculated to exercise a powerful influence on the public mind.

Mr. R. W. BOARER (Folkestone) moved:—

That the Council observes with great satisfaction the growing hostility of the people to compulsory exactions for religious purposes, as indicated by the spread and the increased success of resistance to the levying of Church-rates. That in view of announced legislative proposals for the amendment of the law, the council expresses its determination to accept nothing short of the complete abolition of the impost, and, in the interim, recommends persistence in exertions to practically abolish such rates without the intervention of the Legislature.

He gave some gratifying particulars relative to progress made at Folkestone. When he first opposed Church-rates he could not find a seconder, and now the most influential supporter of the exaction, who could command sixty votes, was privately suggesting that they had better have a voluntary rate. (Cheers.) In canvassing for signatures to a requisition for a town's meeting about the Universities, they had ob-

tained the signatures of eight or ten magistrates, all the aldermen, and nearly half the town council, and Lord Radnor had also signed their petition.

Mr. W. BAINES said that opposition to Church-rates in his own parish had rendered essential service to the Church, for the clergyman's income was more than doubled by pew rents, and during the last three years more money, he believed, had been spent on the church than during the previous three hundred. (Cheers.)

Mr. BONTEMS (Hemel Hempsted) said that they were making way in his neighbourhood, but as some time must elapse before they could get a majority, he hoped that Church-rates would be abolished by Act of Parliament.

Mr. MIALL said that there must be no compromise in this matter. (Hear, hear.) If the Government proposed such a thing the whole kingdom should ring with indignation. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. H. HINTON wished to know whether Mr. Packe's proposal to relieve Dissenters only would be so regarded?

Mr. MIALL thought they ought not to consent to be only excused themselves, but must object to the principle of compulsion, not as annoying them, but as involving a vicious principle. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. FOSTER had just come from a committee of M.P.'s, at which it was settled to oppose Mr. Packe.

Mr. JOHN COPELAND (Chelmsford) said they must act on principle, for they were narrowly watched, and if they took a false step would be greatly damaged. (Hear, hear.) He himself protested in vestry against the payment of his own Church-rate by some person unknown to himself, because it created a false impression. A leading supporter of Church-rates at Chelmsford had recently declared that he was now convinced that they were wrong, and would not ask for another rate.

The Rev. J. MURSELL said that a Church-rate would never be inflicted again at Kettering if the votes of cottage occupiers, whose rates were paid by the landlord, were accepted. Asking for information on this point, a conversation took place as to the practice in various places, the opinion preponderating that the votes of such persons could not be rejected.

Mr. WRIGHT (Birmingham) would not greatly care if the Churchmen continued to be taxed; to which the Rev. W. COLLINGS (Kingston) rejoined, that a considerable number of Churchmen would object to this, many of them supporting district churches, and therefore feeling the pinch of the shoe, as Dissenters had hitherto done.

The SECRETARY said that, as the committee were about preparing a legal manual, it was very desirable that their friends should send them information relative to points raised in their several neighbourhoods, it being wished to make the work as complete as possible. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. NUNNELEY (Market Harborough) moved, and Mr. J. DOULTON, jun., (Lambeth) seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his services in successfully conducting the business of the meeting, which vote acknowledged, the council rose.

THE COUNCIL DINNER.

Business over, the members adjourned to another room, where an excellent repast was provided, and duly discussed. The Treasurer headed the table; and after the cloth had been removed, short speeches were delivered. Dr. Harris, of New College, dwelt on the educational sluggishness of the Universities, and on the advantages which they would be likely to derive from the infusion of new blood. He also expressed his decided approval of the society's proceedings, and his hope that he should be able to do more on its behalf than had hitherto been possible. The Rev. Henry Solly indulged in some interesting historical reminiscences, and expressed his regret that the Unitarian body were not more closely identified with the Anti-state-church movement. If, as was likely, there were faults on both sides, he hoped there would be a disposition to promote a better state of things. The Rev. R. S. Ward, of Canada, expressed the thankfulness with which the Canadians had received the Clergy Reserves Act, and thanked the society for its efforts in the matter. Mr. James Durham, of Edinburgh, strongly urged that, next to the direct preaching of the Gospel, the removal of the obstacle presented to its progress, by State-Churchism was most important. Tea and coffee having been served, the assembly dispersed, the members repairing to Finsbury Chapel.

PUBLIC MEETING AT FINSBURY CHAPEL.

The society's friends mustered in the evening in good numbers, and we think we observed, both among the audience and on the platform, a considerable number of new faces. On the latter were seated Mr. Bell, M.P., Mr. Pellatt, M.P., Mr. Edwards (the Treasurer), Mr. Miall, M.P., Professor Foster, G. T. Kemp, Esq., Mr. E. Swaine, Mr. Stafford Allen, Rev. Clement Dukes, Rev. R. Ashton, Dr. Archer, Mr. T. Thompson, Mr. Ellington, Rev. R. S. Ward (of Canada), Rev. H. Solly, Rev. G. Conder (of Leeds), Rev. H. Richard, Rev. C. F. Vardy, Rev. J. H. Hinton, Dr. Angus, Mr. Baines (of Leicester), Mr. Everest and Mr. Balsey (of Rochester), Mr. Grundy (of Luton), Rev. J. Murrell (of Kettering), and a considerable number of other gentlemen, both metropolitan and provincial, whose names would form an inconveniently long list.

Mr. APSLEY PELLATT, M.P., took the chair, and in the course of his remarks said that he was quite satisfied that the principles for which this society contended were making rapid progress in the minds of intelligent people, even in the higher circles of society, and among Churchmen themselves. (Hear, hear.) Depend upon it that there was an under current of right sentiment at work in society with respect to Church Establishments; and the consequence was, that in every direction, especially among the upper classes, there was the recognition and adoption

of those very principles, under a different guise, for which this society had all along been contending. (Cheers.) Only the other evening, a noble lord, a member of Parliament, was heard conversing with a friend upon this subject, and he expressed the opinion that a large portion of the money now devoted to ecclesiastical purposes might, with advantage both to the Church and to the country, be diverted into other channels. In other cases he had actually listened in private to the frank avowal from Churchmen, that they heartily desired the separation between the Church and the State to be effected. One gentleman, in particular, a minister of the State Church, had even gone so far as to write to his bishop concerning the views which he had been led to entertain on this matter; but he had declined to leave the communion of the Establishment, believing that he could do more to diffuse his new convictions and to reform the Church by remaining in it. (Hear, hear.) Depend upon it, correct opinions on the subject of the kingdom of Christ were growing, and that in the end—and possibly before long—they would very generally prevail among all classes of the people. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the Secretary, read an abstract of the report presented in the morning, which has been already given.

The Rev. THOMAS ARCHER, D.D., was called upon to move the first resolution; and presented himself amid loud applause. He said: "I should have preferred to have taken the second resolution which is to be presented to you this night, because I think, as a Scotchman and an old college student, I might have said something with practical effect regarding University Tests. (Hear, hear.) I can go back in thought to my old academic career when I sat at the feet of honoured men—generally Presbyterians—but yet full of a catholic and large-hearted spirit; and when not one question was asked of any student as to what place he went or what creed he professed; the utmost license being given to attend any congregation of worshippers whatever, no matter of what sect or party. (Cheers.) And I could then have said, also, if that had been the topic assigned me this evening, that so far as my knowledge of the history of my own fellow-students—and that is not confined to a very few—is concerned, that the absence of tests has not issued in the absence of intellect or the rejection of Christian truth. (Hear.) And if I might have appealed to three of the most eminent Ministers in the present coalition Cabinet—which is very much like Noah's Ark (laughter)—from the various persons it has received within itself; but very unlike that kind of vessel built in the town from which the Premier takes his title, an "Aberdeen clipper"—(laughter)—in rapid sailing qualities,—I say, if I might point to three of the most eminent of the members of that Government, I might name Lord Aberdeen, Lord Palmerston, and Lord John Russell, all of whom were students in the Edinburgh University, where no test has ever been upon the statutes and none ever will be. (Cheers.) The test which at one time existed in form, but never in fact, for the professors has now been swept away, and there does not exist even the shadow of a professional test. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I might appeal to these men, and ask whether the absence of that test has been in any case productive of the destruction of religious principle on the one hand, or of immoral habits and practices on the other. (Cheers.) That, however, is not my topic, and I am not going to poach on Mr. Conder's manor, and will keep, so far as I can, to my own distinct topic. The motion which has been put into my hands is the following:—

That regarding the liberation of religion from State patronage and control as of primary importance, this meeting rejoices at the improved position and prospects of the society existing for that object, and earnestly trusts that, strengthened by accessions to its ranks and an augmentation of its resources, it may prosecute its enterprise with growing energy and success.

We therefore this night come into contact with religion in a state of vassalage. It may be that the various forms with which that religion is bound up may strike some persons as making that captivity attractive; but to me it matters not one whit whether the bonds are made of the roughest hemp or the finest silk, the heaviest, coarsest, iron or the richest gold, it is enough for me that it is an indication of bondage and ignominy. (Cheers.) The resolution before me contains these words:—"That regarding the liberation of religion from State patronage and control." These words are wisely and properly linked together. There are many who would like to be free from State control who like to keep State patronage. (Laughter and cheers.) Many. (Hear, hear.) Why, that was the theory of the Free Church when it first started out. My great tutor, Dr. Chalmers, used to speak of the independence of a Church that no person could touch, but was willing to take the gold of the State for its support. Puseyism holds the same principle: it says, "give us State money, but don't you touch us. Give us all a share in the resources of the State, but let us just do as we like, and we will be perfectly contented." Now I deprecate a theory of that kind as monstrously unjust. I hate the power of the priesthood. I loathe and hate with all my soul every kind of ecclesiastical despotism; but certainly, if there be one despotism which is more terrible than another—so far as my mind can conceive—it is that despotism to which the people pay, which the people support, to crush and humble themselves. (Cheers.) The resolution says that our object is of primary importance—and to whom is it of primary importance? Why, Sir, to the Church itself. It is a great thing for a Church to be at liberty to carry out its own plans. You have told us to-night of what the Church of England has been doing in the shape of erecting chapels and other works. Now, would it not be a right and good thing for our brethren in the Established Church just to be allowed to do as they like; to have complete freedom to build chapels wherever they choose, complete freedom for their ministers to go wherever they like from one

diocese to another? I am a humble Dissenter, but I should not like to be fettered down by any one who would say, "You shall not go out of London to preach in some part of Surrey," or some county beyond that. Ministers of the Established Church are fettered by diocesan ties and limits to this place and that. Why, sir, my diocese is the world. (Applause.) Nobody can shut me out from any part where I choose to go. All the world is before me to go wherever Providence may guide me. It almost appears as if the House of Commons were sinking down into a sort of monastic institution. (Laughter.) I ask you, gentlemen of the House of Commons, whether you are one particle the wiser when you leave the House in regard to such questions that have occupied your mind than you were before? (Laughter.) I can imagine two or three Ministers walking quietly home at night trying to get their brains cooled down by a little midnight air, and talking over these matters with each other. I can imagine Lord Aberdeen, with all his canny Scotch—(laughter)—saying: "Why there's going to be a deputation from the Free Church of Scotland to meet me to-morrow, in Downing-street." Then Mr. Gladstone says, "And I am going to have a body of representatives from Oxford University: what am I to do with them?" Lord John Russell begins to feel the weight of ecclesiastical affairs coming more and more heavily upon him; and the only man of the group that goes quietly along with perfect nonchalance is Lord Palmerston; happy that he has nothing to attend to but drainage and sewerage. (Laughter.) Just take the State from the Church and the Church from the State, and you will relieve both parties. I belong to the Evangelical Alliance, and I feel I am not in one particle inconsistent in being here to-night. (Hear, hear.) I am a member of that body and a member of this, because I feel that we are acting in a right spirit and principle—that we are acting for one common end—to make the Church one, and to convert the world to Christianity. I hold that this society is, in fact, a great evangelical association. It cannot be otherwise. Free Christianity from all the things which have hitherto bound it, and given it an ugly aspect, a distorted appearance in the eyes of those who do not believe it, and you do much to make religion more popular, more acceptable, more attractive. (Hear, hear.) Destroy the Establishment, and you give free and fair play to evangelical principle and evangelical love. Sir, were I in the House of Commons, and the contents of the Census were brought before it, I should move an alteration in the name of a certain Church. By the Census it is proved that there are not more than five millions belonging to the Church of England, that there are about the same number belonging to different bodies of Dissenters, and that there are about ten millions that belong to no class whatever. I am not going to speak upon that point; it is to me a lamentable thing; but still there stands the fact. Assuming the population of England and Wales to be about twenty millions, we have half belonging to no party whatever, about one quarter belonging to the Church of England, and another quarter belonging to the ranks of Dissent. That is a fact that Churchmen cannot deny; it comes before us in the Census; and in the words of an old poet of my own country, with many of whose poems my friends are quite familiar—

"Facts are chieftains that winna ding."

That is, facts are things that cannot be beaten. I should, therefore, say, that from that Census publication we have no more what we imagine we had, the Church of England, but from this time what was called the Church of England is but the Episcopal Church in England. It is no more the Church of England than Episcopalians in my native country are the Episcopal Church of Scotland. (Cheers.) From that let us look at the progress we have made. My friend, Mr. Stovel, is upon this platform; twenty years ago nearly, he and Mr. Morell, now passed into eternity, and myself, were secretaries of a humble voluntary society which we had tried to establish in London. It was looked down upon with contempt, as completely unfashionable. People said that that was not the time for that, and that the whole thing was a matter that should be entirely tabooed. That time is now gone by, sir; the time is now past when respectability stood aloof from this enterprise; the time is past when an old minister of the Church to which I belong published a book upon the subject, and when the Attorney-General was consulted whether or not the book was actionable, and the writer liable to a charge of treason against the State for the production of it. I suppose Mr. Miall and our friends will remember this circumstance. They know the literature of the controversy, for it has a literature; it is no vulgar thing; it has got poetry and philosophy about it too. All these things are past; we are coming to that period in which we have in the House of Commons a large body of representatives, of whom you, sir, are one. (Hear, hear.) Dr. Archer said in conclusion: I cannot help quoting a passage from a poem written by a fellow-student of mine, Robert Pollock, who is not quite extinct and dead in the poetic world, amid all the mawkish nonsense that is now afloat.

"Thrice happy days! thrice blest the man who saw
Their dawn! The Church and State, that long had held
Unholy intercourse were now divorced;
Princes were righteous men, judges upright;
And first, in general, now—for in the worst
Of times there were some honest seers—the finest
Sought other than the fleece among his flocks,
Best paid when God was honoured most; and like
A cedar, nourished well, Jerusalem grew,
And towered on high, and spread, and flourished fair;
And underneath her boughs the nations lodged,
All nations lodged, and sung the song of peace."

(Applause.)

GEORGE KEMP, Esq., in seconding the resolution, said that the change in the title of the society had

placed it out of the position of antagonism in which it formerly stood: and that was a circumstance in which he greatly rejoiced. It had now a wide field open before it, its great object being the liberation of religion from State patronage and control—an object in which they could ask all Christian men to unite.

The Rev. C. Stovel, in supporting the motion said: My brother Archer, a firm-handed and ever-consistent co-worker in this field, has called to my mind scenes of former days. Let me tell you that the chief work connected with the education of the English public on this point had nothing about it to flatter our feeling or to beckon us onward as in a flowery path. The chief advocates of the principles were known to me as bearing and enduring great hardships for their sakes. They commenced their career not without great hardship, consisting especially in that alienation of affection which sometimes must attend the procedure of what is called a forward man. I am one of those who feel that in this department nothing will be done unless it be through the means of some individuals who are prepared—I say not how—perhaps never much by their own determination. I sometimes think they are beckoned onward by a higher power. I look now upon the condition of our country in respect to this great question, and I feel that those men have not lost their reward. As far as I am concerned I freely say, that I feel myself greatly repaid for the pains, and sometimes the cost in feeling, which former efforts demanded, I think, at my hand. (Applause.) What do we see? Most of our opponents in this great practical question, for I call it not a theoretical dispute, are now obliged to confess, and it was confessed to me in no unrespectable circle lately, that it had become almost, if not altogether, a money question. Let the pathway be shown to the right appropriation of the public resources of the Church, and one great difficulty in the whole movement will be entirely done away with. (Hear, hear.) I differ rather from the expression that closes your report. If I mistake not, there is something which will bring into great prominence, and give us great advantage in the pressing of some most important and practical measures, if we should be brought to the pressure of a severe war. I think we shall then find the importance of general union, and Englishmen will be led to feel the solemnity of any question that sets one class of Englishmen against another. If the treatment of religion by our Government has enfeebled its resources; if it has diminished the union of the subjects of Britain, causing them to move and work less harmoniously, that question will be seen to involve our country's weal; and my impression is, that in the time of pressing necessity, people will be compelled to listen to arguments to which, in the time of ease and plenty, they would turn a deaf ear, and pass quietly away. You speak in your resolution of "liberating religion from State control." Now, what do we understand by religion? I do not find a perfect unanimity on that point. Dr. Archer says Christianity. When I speak of religion, I mean, not a class of doctrines, not the expedients applied by our Redeemer in the Gospel system, but I mean the communing of a living man with a living God, let the medium be whatever God has appointed. Now, if you agree to that, then I say that, in liberating this exercise of the human mind, and setting it free from State control, you unbind man for those which must be regarded as the noblest of all the exercises to which God invites us. (Hear, hear.) There are some points then that are positive—that ought to be dealt with aggressively. I should hold it to be my duty, though I did it with a single voice, to ask the House at once to proceed with measures which involved the interests of religion by affecting injuriously the Established Church. As soon as that is done, let whatever is civil in their province be provided for by civil arrangement, and let them drift as the winds and the seas may drive them. (Applause.) I would leave the Church of England free, if she liked, to have Church-rates, tithes, Easter-offerings, or any other sort of offerings she pleased; let her have them, but let them no longer be enforced by civil authority. Just let us ask that one point, that Government shall no longer afford the use of the sword in the collection of these imposts. All financial measures may then pass without vestry disputes or Acts of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) I confess I think it a decided wrong that the Established Church may not meet in convocation, and conduct whatever ecclesiastical business she may choose, in solemn deliberation, between her own members. If she hold an Episcopal authority, she should have that authority in all moral and in all spiritual force and integrity. (Hear, hear.) But then I should ask, in order that that might be done, that her decrees should be no more than the decrees of the Baptist Board, and should be supported by nothing else than moral measures. Why is it that the Church is not allowed to meet thus in consultation on her most important affairs? Because she has lifted her mitred front in the face of the throne, and has laid hold of the sword to enforce her decrees. Wrench that instrument from her hand, give her no longer the use of physical force, give her only moral influence, and she may meet—as far as I am concerned—as often as she pleases. (Applause.) Her spirit would gain in freedom and in ardour by her new position, and would advance in consistency and strength. (Hear, hear.) In the last charge of the Bishop of Exeter, he says, that it is one of the chief arguments for the Church and one of the chief objections to Dissent, that not only in the act of dissent, but in the detail of Dissenting proceedings, self-will is a moral evil, which ought to confine every man to Church and set him against Dissenters. (Laughter.) Now, I suspect I know as much of the self-will of Dissenters as his lordship; but shall I stand corrected, or shall my brethren stand corrected by his condemnation of self-will, when he, without the shadow of proof from Scripture, will carry, by every possible effort, any ap-

peal against his brethren the civil powers, trample upon all divine proof for the support of a system in which he is consistent because he is wrong, and when he has defied all proof in heaven and earth, asking for a bloody sword to carry out his purpose? (Applause.) Mr. Stovel concluded with an eloquent description of the influence of religion in our national history, and sat down amid loud applause.

The resolution passed unanimously.

A collection was then made, after which the meeting was addressed by

The Rev. G. W. CONDER, of Leeds, who moved:—That the Bill now before Parliament for reforming the University of Oxford, however commendable in its design and general principles, is, in the opinion of this meeting, seriously defective in that it maintains existing religious tests by which the advantages of a confessedly national institution are monopolised by a religious body, of which only a minority of the people are members. That a petition be therefore signed by the Chairman on behalf of the meeting, praying the House of Commons to introduce into the Bill a provision for the removal of so invidious and impolitic a restriction.

In the few remarks he had to make he said he would take the liberty of travelling a little out of the record, and speaking on one or two other topics than those contained in the resolution. We have not yet arrived at the time when we can afford to cease to guard ourselves from misinterpretation; as yet, both our aims and our spirit are greatly misunderstood and misrepresented by those who do not agree with us; or, agreeing with us in principles, refuse to go with us in action. It is said that our object is to filch the property now possessed by the Established Church, and appropriate it to our own purposes; but we have so continuously and consistently said that we believe the thing has done harm to the spiritual influence of the Church of England, that we should be madmen to seek to have any portion of it ourselves. (Hear.) In so far as the Church of England is putting forth spiritual efforts, I wish her success. I by no means deny that she is doing so to a very large extent. We rejoice in her efficiency. We would not, for all we hold dear, touch a single spiritual agency that exists in this land for Christianizing the people. On the contrary, our aim is to render the Church of England herself a more directly spiritual power; and we do hope that, as one of the results that may come from the accomplishment of our aim, she will be able to effect more for the evangelization of the people of England than she can possibly effect while she remains in her present position. (Hear, hear.) This is one of the things to make us earnest about this matter. We are sometimes told that we love to attack and oppose whatever is established, whatever has something of antiquity about it—but we deny that we are actuated with such a spirit as that. (Hear, hear.) There may have been men connected with this movement, as there have been in connexion with all societies, who have manifested very considerably the pugnacious spirit; but the mass of the supporters of this movement are of the peaceful spirit, men who would rather not have anything to attack, men who are desirous that the profoundest and truest peace may be the ultimate result of all the contests of opinion in which they feel themselves called to engage. We are told sometimes, too, that we are jealous of the power and prestige of the Church of England. We say we have no reason to be jealous. (Hear, hear.) We do not for one moment envy the Church of England her connexion with the State and her reliance upon the State protection. We deem that to be a great evil; and if the separation of the Church from the State were to occur to-morrow, it would not divert any of the Church's resources into our midst. We do not imagine that the freedom of the Church from its present connexion with the Government would make the Church come to join us, or assist any of our Dissenting bodies, or adopt any of our principles. Nor have we any reason to be envious on the score of comparative progress, for it has been recently demonstrated most triumphantly that without any funds, save those which are contributed by the free will of the people out of love to Christ, the sects outside the Church have outstripped the Church herself in the rate of progress which they have made. We do confess sometimes to something like a feeling of indignation. We do not profess to be altogether free from the sense of injured justice. Let us be forgiven for that. When we see a man compelled by Christianity to take joyfully the spoiling of his goods, we do feel indignant that that Christian duty and virtue should be called into exercise by a thing calling itself Christianity. Aye, we do feel indignant when we see the contempt deliberately poured upon us by those who hold what they deem a more favoured and advantageous position than ourselves, such contempt as was recently shown in one of the towns of the West Riding in Yorkshire, when a bishop obstinately refused to consecrate a place of worship in a cemetery, because it was connected by a little piece of brick-work with another place of worship that happened to be devoted to the use of Dissenters. When such contempt is manifested—when these men tell us that they must not have contact with us, even through the medium of a brick wall, we do feel indignant, both at the want of intelligence on the part of those who commit such folly, and because such a thing should be done in the name of Christianity. We are sorry less for our own sake than for the sake of Christianity itself, on which discredit is thrown by anything like bigotry and intolerance. We feel, moreover, that we have great wrongs to contend against—personal wrongs—and we are not afraid to talk about them. I am one of those who, like Mr. Stovel, look hopefully upon the present state of the agitation of this question. It must be remembered that the success of this society is not the measure of the amount of right sentiment that may exist upon its principles. We are only one of a host of agencies, all working in the same direction. There are many causes at work outside of us and independent of us, and seemingly coming

from opposite directions. Our members of Parliament are in the process of being very greatly enlightened on the subject. The questions come up of themselves, and they come up, too, so as to exclude a great deal of other very necessary business of the House. Now the result of that will be, that our members will be set thinking upon the question, and ultimately, we hope, come to right conclusions respecting it. (Hear, hear.) Then look at the Church of England itself, with its two parties working against each other. On the one hand there is the High Church party summoned to meet year by year in convocation; who are beginning candidly to state their conviction, that if this is to go on they had much better be without the supremacy of the Queen, without the control of Parliament, and without the connexion with the State. (Applause.) We should not be disposed to look amongst the Evangelical party for advocates of the severance of the Church from the State, yet I believe that unknowingly many of them are arguing on our side. For what do they say? "Oh, no, don't let us have Convocation; by all means preserve us from the authority which Convocation would soon come to exercise." And why? "Because we want a freedom which Convocation would not allow us to exercise. The fact is, we have a practical freedom, owing to the lax principle upon which the State control is exercised." Both parties are tending towards the same point—both asking for freedom, but freedom in different directions, and we will help them to gain that freedom by all the means in our power. One other symptom of the times to which I will refer is the removal of Professor Maurice from his position in King's College. Now I am not going to express an opinion about his sentiments, or to pronounce a condemnation or approval of the course that has been pursued with respect to him; but I say that when the thinking parties within the Church of England see such a man as that expelled from a post of honour, in connexion with the Church, they say there must be some alteration, and they begin to inquire into the power which stamps the creed of the Church with authority over the minds of its members—they begin to inquire into the adaptation of such a system to the growing intelligence of the age; and we have no fear that if they be set thinking in that direction, they will think the question fairly out and come to our conclusions. (Hear, hear.) After a reference to some other features of the State-Church question, and to University tests, Mr. Conder resumed his seat amidst much cheering.

Dr. FOSTER, in seconding the resolution, said when they commenced their agitation, they were told by everybody that they would certainly, if not signally fail; but it was now stated by members of Parliament themselves that nothing could now prevent their success in obtaining the admission of all classes to the University, without distinction of creed, but a direct dereliction of duty on the part of those who had been agitating the question. If then the utmost promise of success in improving a motion not otherwise bad was to be the justification of the policy of the association, he believed that that justification would be speedily furnished. (Hear, hear.) But if the attempt was likely to fail, he would still have counselled that it should be made with that energy with which it had been prosecuted in every part of the kingdom. What was the position in which they found themselves when the question was first brought forward. Twenty years ago the question of opening the Universities was discussed in Parliament, and a bill was brought in to admit Dissenters without any distinction of creed. There was then some prospect of success, but, as you know, a reaction took place, and the House of Lords rejected the bill. They asked their friends to bring the question under the notice of the Government. They had done so, and the result was known. Lord John Russell had met a deputation of 102 members, and he stated that he himself was personally favourable to the admission of Dissenters, and should give his vote, as he had done, in their behalf, but that his friends in the Cabinet were too strong for him, and they had resolved that the admission of Dissenters should not form part of the measure. That was one of the consequences of a coalition Government. (Hear, hear.) They ought not, it was true, to object to the making of concessions by one party to another, but when it was found that this was only one instance of a universal policy; that any broad measure by which Dissenters might hope to be advantageous, would be opposed by the Government; that no concession was to be made to religious liberty; that the concession was to be all on one side, they thought it was time that they should speak for themselves. (Hear, hear.) The great importance of the Universities was not always borne in mind or adequately realized. They were extremely wealthy; they enjoyed great prestige; they were connected with public grammar schools in almost all the market towns of England, and with many other places, by their numerous exhibitions and scholarships; from all which benefits Dissenters were excluded, simply because they did not belong to the Church of England. It was not a question of a paltry endowment here or there; it was the question of the education of any, the poorest man in the land, who felt that he had energy and ambition enough to desire an education above his rank. For such there were exhibitions and scholarships to sustain them throughout their course of University education, and to reward their diligence. Let them recollect the number of distinguished statesmen, soldiers, and men of science and learning, whom Oxford had given to the country, and that these men were confined to a single religious denomination, on account of the test, which might easily be removed; and then let them ask whether, if they had remained silent, they would not have betrayed themselves, injured their own cause, and done dishonour to religion itself. (Hear, hear.)

Allusion had been made to the indignation naturally felt on account of the exclusion of Dissenters from privileges to which they were justly entitled; and it was stated that they ought to be forgiven for such indignation. They asked for no forgiveness. (Hear, hear.) They did well to be angry, and to throw back the contempt which was cast upon them. Certain powers and duties had been assigned to them by the Creator, and they were bound to fulfil them in the best way, and to resist everything which might tend to restrict their exertions. With regard to the Bill introduced by Government he did not say that it was wholly bad; but it was a sufficient proof that little reliance could be placed upon it, that one very important portion of the constitution of the University, namely, the congregation, had been altogether altered in its character by amendment since the Bill went into committee. He was present at a recent meeting of members of Parliament, when it was acknowledged that, under the bill, the congregation would have the supreme governing power of the University. He observed that among the powers to be given to the colleges, was one to enable them to alter the trusts made by their founders in such a way as to lead to the advancement of learning and religion. He should have been more satisfied if that had been accompanied with a proviso, that to whatever alterations were made, no new religious tests should be introduced. (Hear.) From a long residence in a University town, and from a knowledge of the state of feeling among the heads of the colleges, he was not disposed to place much reliance upon any extreme good-will of theirs in respect to the admission of Dissenters. Before concluding, he would advert to another point on which he thought an exaggerated feeling had arisen. It was very often supposed that a college residence in Oxford or Cambridge was hardly safe for young men. He had long resided in Cambridge, and he knew what were the dangers of the place; and he could say confidently and deliberately, that a parent need not feel more anxiety about sending his son there than about sending him to London. Dr. Foster then concluded by earnestly requesting the meeting to petition the Legislature on the subject of University reform, and promising ultimate success as the result of their exertions.

Mr. EDWARD MIALI, M.P., supported the resolution. After some introductory remarks he said: Let me, for a moment, endeavour to illustrate the progress of the principles by a reference to the resolution now before the meeting. Dr. Foster has already told you, that when we first moved in the matter with a view to the admission of Dissenters into Oxford and Cambridge, that the evident feeling of the House of Commons, but more especially the feeling outside of the House of Commons, did not lead us to anticipate that we should be able to do more than make something like a respectable protest against the bigotry and intolerance which still excluded us from these national institutions. Well, we went to work; and I may say, on behalf of my friend Professor Foster, that he has worked like a horse. (Hear, hear.) And if the Dissenters have shown any activity in this matter beyond that which was expected from them, I do think that they owe it very much to his laborious and continued efforts. (Cheers.) Somehow the matter, when it was first brought before the House of Commons, presented itself to the House as one calling only for congratulation to the noble lord who introduced the Bill, and calculated to win assent, on the ground of its extreme moderation. I ventured on that occasion to enter my protest against the unfairness of providing, out of bequests of our forefathers, a high rank of education in national institutions for only one-third of the population of these realms. (Cheers.) And although the protest was listened to with respect, there certainly did not appear to be that response from the House which the real feeling cherished by the members of the House would have warranted. (Hear, hear.) We have taken counsel together, and we have worked together, and the result is this, that we confidently anticipate, that when the clause is brought forward to give admission to Dissenters, we shall have a decided majority on the division. (Loud cheers.) I know very well, notwithstanding what Dr. Foster has told you this evening, that there are many dangers in the Universities, not to the morals merely, but to the ecclesiastical views and principles of young men who go there for education; that I should expect that, for the first ten years after the opening of the Universities, the greater proportion of young men who go from our Dissenting families into these Universities for education will stand a good chance of being absorbed into the Church. (Hear, hear.) But I think that we, as Dissenters, are specially bound to watch over the interests of religion as connected with the interests of the great body of the people. (Hear, hear.) We do not ask Parliament simply to extend to us an advantage to ourselves, but we ask them to remove a restriction which is operating unfavourably over the whole of the kingdom. (Hear, hear.) Oxford and Cambridge together may be regarded as the intellectual heart of these realms. (Hear, hear.) From thence go forth those intellectual influences which form the mind of the country. If they are diseased, intellectually speaking, the sentiments of the people generally will be diseased likewise. If they are bigoted, intolerant and narrow, the religious sentiments of the people will be bigoted, intolerant and narrow also, for every clergyman of the Church of England receives his education in one or other of these Universities, and the impulse or impress which is given to his mind there will be carried with him into the sphere in which his influence will be particularly felt. (Hear, hear.) Almost all the members of the House of Commons—indeed, and of the House of Lords—are likewise educated at these two national institutions. It is, our duty, therefore, to track home bigotry

and intolerance to her very lair, if we want to emancipate the country from those prejudices which at present keep a State Church in being. (Cheers.) We cannot do a better thing, we cannot do a wiser thing, we cannot do a more honourable or a more religious thing, than attack bigotry in its very den; and if we can kill it there, if we can put it to death and utterly annihilate it where it receives its sustenance, it will quickly die all over the country. (Loud cheers.) Why is it we have no clause in this Bill for the admission of Dissenters? Simply because there are Bishops in the House of Lords. (Cries of "Hear, hear.") Our legislation is framed, not upon the principles of right and of justice, is intended not simply to express the thoughts and purposes of statesmen, but to accommodate itself to the prejudices of the episcopal bench. (Hear, hear.) Well, I stand up for the liberty of the House of Commons, and for the liberty of the Government. (Loud cheers.) I say, let us send up good measures to the House of Lords, and if they are to be rejected let the responsibility of the rejection of them fall upon the true source. (Cheers.) I say that we who are not in sentiment and heart as bigoted as they are, ought not to cut out all our bills and measures so as to accommodate ourselves to their narrowness and exclusiveness. (Loud cheers.) Why is the House of Commons, in the face of the whole country, to damage its own reputation and to do harm to liberal principles? Merely in order to soothe the excited and suspicious feelings of ecclesiastics in the House of Lords. (Hear, hear.) On this account, therefore, if on no other, I would insist upon this clause being inserted in this Bill (cheers)—we will have no separate measure. (Hear.) The admission of Dissenters to the Universities fairly and properly belongs to this Bill. That it is not in the measure is an insult to ourselves, and it is an insult to the principles of justice and freedom in regard to the whole country. (Hear, hear.) I hope the country will express itself boldly and decidedly upon some points connected with the agitation we are now carrying forward, points which will involve considerations to this effect—whether our Chambers of Legislature are to be converted into houses of convocation simply for the discussion of religious questions; which discussions would never lead to any settlement, but simply stir up, irritate, and distress the minds both of members of Parliament, and of many out of Parliament, upon all questions relative to their highest interests. (Hear, hear.) Let me therefore urge upon you that you respond to the appeal of my friend Dr. Foster. Every man can do something. I suppose that every man is virtually if not really represented—those who are only virtually represented may write to their virtual member; and those who are really represented may write to their real member; and let such persons in every case state clearly the grounds upon which this question is to be considered, and urge those members to give their support to the opening of the Universities to all. (Cheers.) I have seen a great change of feeling upon this subject in the House of Commons during the last month; and I feel perfectly confident that such is the general good sense of that House, and that such is of what I may call unreasoning obstinate prejudice, that if any member will bring forward his topics in proper time, and in a proper tone, although the views propounded should be diametrically opposed to the sentiments generally prevalent in the House, he will be heard with attention. (Hear, hear.) So far as my experience has hitherto gone, I can bear testimony to the fairness of the House of Commons in being willing to listen to any man, so long as that man will only select proper seasons for expressing his opinions, and present them in a proper tone. (Cheers.)

The resolution was put from the chair, and cordially adopted.

Mr. ELLINGTON then moved, and Mr. GRUNDY seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Pellatt for his kindness in presiding, and the proceedings terminated at ten o'clock.

CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening at Weigh-house Chapel, Fish-street-hill. John Pitman, Esq., who occupied the chair, opened the proceedings by reading a letter from Mr. Alderman Challis, who, in consequence of illness, was unable to preside. After singing and prayer, which was offered by the Rev. Charles Fox Vardy, M.A., the Chairman briefly addressed the meeting.

The Rev. ROBERT ASHTON then read the report, of which the following is an extract:—

The operations of the society are threefold: domiciliary visitation, lectures to the working-classes, and open-air, tent, and room preaching, with the distribution of tracts, and various other appliances of Christian usefulness. The visitation is carried on by the several churches in which associations are formed. The efforts now made in this respect are fourfold what they were twenty-five years since. To the point of augmenting the number of worshippers in the house of God is the attention of the visitors directed; and it is no unimportant result of their labours, that 670 persons have been persuaded to attend the public worship of Almighty God. The number of children obtained for the Sabbath-schools is 1,221. The visits of mercy to the sick and dying have been very numerous; and in 1,530 cases relief has been administered to the distressed. Nearly 40,000 families have been visited by the 1,500 friends who kindly gave themselves to this important work. The tents have not been erected in London as in former years. The ground on Kennington-common and in Bonner's-fields is now prohibited for such purposes; and no other suitable spot has presented itself on which to pitch the tent, and proclaim therein the words of life. An attempt was made to establish tent worship at Norwood, in the immediate vicinity of the Crystal Palace. Four Sabbaths were thus occupied, but few attendants could be secured, and the effort was abandoned. It is gratifying to learn that

a Sabbath afternoon service has been attempted at the British Schools, Norwood, and with an encouraging degree of success. The mode of doing good by open-air services has been attended with blessed results. The importance of renting large rooms, or school-houses, in crowded localities, has been much urged on the attention of the committee during the year. But, having no funds, the subject has been kept in abeyance. A new project has been started under encouraging auspices—"The Ragged Church Union"—which contemplates the opening of free places of worship in poor and destitute neighbourhoods. Their name has a charm for many, especially as associated with the idea of Ragged Schools. The special duty of the committee has appeared of late to be that of lecturing, during the winter months, to working-men, in various public rooms, and occasionally in chapels. Three evenings in nearly every week, from the beginning of November to the end of February, were occupied with such lectures. They have been distributed over all parts of London, so as to bring before the attention of the working-classes the great truths of revelation. The committee were happy in being able to secure the cordial concurrence of nineteen ministers to deliver a special lecture in their respective chapels, to working men, on the last Sabbath evening in March. The result, on the whole, was most gratifying. Tract distribution has been carried on extensively at Fairlop, Greenwich, and Wandsworth Fairs, at the lecture halls and rooms, in the parks, and in various parts of the country to which grants have been made. Some 50,000 tracts, in addition to the thousands of loan tracts, have been put in circulation during the year. The committee have been prevented from employing a more extensive agency in consequence of the inadequacy of the funds; and they find themselves, at the close of the year, to be indebted to the treasurer to the amount of £32 4s. 6d.

The Rev. JOHN CORBIN moved,—

That the report now read be adopted and printed; and that the Association be entreated to renew their energies in respect both to domiciliary visitation, and to the establishment of preaching stations on their several districts, as an important means of bringing the Gospel under the attention of thousands of the habitual neglectors of Divine Worship in the metropolis.

The Rev. JOHN HOWARD HINTON, in seconding the resolution, said he thought sometimes that building churches and chapels was just another way, not of getting at the world, but of shutting themselves out from the world. In relation to the conversion of the world now, however, how little was there of thrusting that Gospel upon the people, and compelling them to hear! The mere question of raising churches and chapels was very much besides the mark of that conversion. Now one of the principles which lay at the basis of the association was, that the resources of the Church were contained within itself, and that the pious persons composing it ought to be in action for the dissemination of the Gospel, and for the diffusion of piety around. On this principle, its plans for the diffusion of Divine truth, by means of visitation, were admirably adapted to effect the object in view.

The Rev. BREWIN GRANT moved a resolution appointing a committee for the present year, and directing that they be instructed to pay special attention to the working-classes. It had often struck him, he said, as being a great mistake to suppose that, as a body, the working-classes were opposed to Christianity. That was not the case; the truth was, that there was a great deal of indifference among them in reference to religion. The speaker then pointed out to the meeting what yet remained to be done; and afterwards dwelt on the mode in which they should act.

The Rev. JOHN BURNER seconded the resolution.

The collection was then made; after which a vote of thanks was passed to the various officers and visitors of the institution, and to the chairman of the meeting.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

The annual meeting of the Sunday-school Union was held on Thursday evening, in Exeter Hall; John Cheetham, Esq., M.P., in the chair. Long before the time for commencing the proceedings, the Hall was densely crowded in every part. On the platform there were a large number of ministers and gentlemen distinguished for their attachment to the cause of Sunday-school operations. The Rev. Henry Addiscott offered prayer after a hymn had been sung.

The CHAIRMAN then delivered a thoroughly Sunday-school speech.

Mr. W. H. WATSON read an elaborate report, which commenced by a copious reference to extracts from the foreign correspondence of the committee, of a very interesting character, and it was stated that grants of money and books had been made to various schools on the continent, to the amount of £204. With respect to the home proceedings it appeared, that during the past year six building grants have been made, amounting to £55, and making the total number of grants 319, amounting to £7,044. Of lending libraries, 248 have been granted, making a total of 2,979, the value of which amounts to £1,118. Out of this sum the schools paid only £491. Deputations from the committee have visited 38 provincial towns. The contributions towards the general objects of the Union have fallen short of the amount of former years, which is accounted for by the large sum given to the Jubilee Fund. The committee, therefore, close their Benevolent Fund with a deficiency of £741. An earnest appeal was made to meet this lack in two years' income. The proceedings of the jubilee were very largely reviewed, special reference being made to the public meetings held in the provincial towns of the kingdom, as well as to the meetings in London. The Census returns were largely quoted, and it was stated that there were in 1851 in England and Wales 23,498 schools, with 302,000 teachers, and 3,407,409 scholars. The fact was dwelt upon as one calculated to call forth feelings of peculiar thankfulness to God. It was stated that the amount received up to March 31, on account of the Jubilee Fund, was £5,085 9s. 4d.—a sum equal to twelve years' income. It was expected that this fund would be considerably increased.

Mr. Alderman and Sheriff WINE moved the first resolution:—

That this meeting had learnt with pleasure and with gratitude to Almighty God from the report now read, the gradual but steady progress of the Sunday-school system throughout this country, the British colonies, and foreign lands; that this meeting approves the efforts made by the committee to secure for Sunday scholars a literature imbued with Christian principles, and earnestly commends this object to the liberality of the Christian church; that the report be adopted and printed, and the following be the officers and committee for the ensuing year. (Names read.)

He thought it was much to be desired that a closer union should subsist between the Sunday-school and the church. A minister of the Gospel would find his labours more largely blessed if, instead of merely walking round the school-room occasionally, when the children were assembled, he would go and sit down amongst them, and speak to them in the language of affection. This, he conceived, would be the way to cement that union between the church and the school which was so much to be desired. Another great deficiency in most of the schools consisted in the fact, that the teachers are not selected where they ought to be—from the rich people; the sons and daughters of the wealthy families of a congregation should be taught to regard it as a very high honour and a great pleasure to sit down with the children of their poorer brethren, and to instruct them in the truths of the Gospel. He alluded to the statement which had been made with respect to the number of juvenile criminals who had been in Sabbath-schools, for the purpose of asserting that he did not believe them to be fair and honest statistics. He was fully convinced that such children had not been the habitual attendants, and that in the majority of cases on but a very few Sabbaths only had they been under religious instruction.

Mr. EDWARD CORDEROY, of Lambeth, seconded the resolution in an eloquent speech, bespeaking for the Sabbath scholars more of the notice of the ministers on the Sabbath.

The Rev. N. HAYCROFT, of Bristol, then moved:—That while this meeting rejoices at the facts brought out by the recent Census as to the number of schools, scholars, and teachers in England and Wales, evincing a rapid progress in the Sunday-school system—it cannot avoid feeling deeply anxious that every teacher thus employed should be spiritually and mentally qualified for the important work of training the youthful population of our land in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son Jesus Christ. This meeting would therefore encourage the committee now appointed to prosecute with diligence the efforts made to guide and assist teachers in suitable preparation for the work they have undertaken.

He uttered a sort of protest against the statement of the former speakers, that the ministers were alienated from the schools. However it might be in London, in the country the ministers were thoroughly identified with their schools, and did almost all which had been suggested as their duty. He then proceeded to speak of the real and mock philanthropy of the age, denouncing as a foul slander upon the women of England the representation of their conduct in the person of Mrs. Jellyby. Many a Christian lady in England contributed more in the course of a week to objects of home philanthropy than such sentimentalists as Mr. Dickens and Mr. Thackeray did in their whole lives.

The Rev. ISAAC VAUGHAN, in seconding the resolution, dwelt at considerable length upon its various points with much solemnity and earnestness, especially upon the qualification of the teachers, urging the importance of increased knowledge, piety, and zeal.

The Rev. JOHN CORBIN then moved, and the Rev. Dr. HEWLETT seconded:—

That the small proportion of Sunday scholars and of attendants at public worship in the metropolis, as compared with the population, calls for serious and prayerful consideration on the part of all interested in the welfare of our country. That this meeting cordially approves of the measures taken to trace the causes which have led to this result, and to ascertain the remedies which should be adopted.

A vote of thanks to the chair and the singing of a hymn closed the proceedings.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting of this society was held at Exeter-hall on Monday, May 1st. The place was quite filled: Sir Edward Buxton, presided. The report announced that the income of the Society for the past year was £114,498 14s. 3d. being an increase of £9,116 14s. 9d. over the preceding year. Amongst the receipts were extraordinary contributions from Australia, and a legacy of £10,000 by the late Thomas Marriott, Esq. "The expenditure of the year had also been £114,498 14s. 3d., including the amount of £5,119 17s. 4d., which has been paid in partial liquidation of the accumulated deficiencies of former years. The remaining balance of those deficiencies now stands at £19,501 11s. 10d.; the entire liquidation of which the committee keeps steadily in view in connexion with the financial management of all the operations of the society. The expenditure of the year has been augmented to a large amount by the outfits and passages of no less than thirty missionaries, some of them married." The general summary of all the missions under the directions of the Wesleyan Missionary Society is as follows:—Central or principle stations, called circuits, 367; chapels and other preaching places 3,116; ministers and assistant-missionaries, including twenty-six supernumeraries 507; other paid agents, as catechists, day-school teachers, &c., 703; unpaid agents, as Sabbath-school teachers, &c., 8,779; full and accredited church members, 110,228; on trial for church membership, 4,873; scholars, deducting for those who attend both the day and Sabbath-schools, 78,811; printing establishments, 8.

The claims of the missions were advocated during the meeting by the Rev. John Lomas, president of the Conference; the Rev. T. Vasey, of Hull; the Rev. Samuel Coley, of Stockport; the Rev. Dr. Barth, of Wurtemberg; the Rev. Robert Young (who has just returned from visiting the society's missions in Australia, Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, Tonga, Feejee, and Ceylon, and who gave some account of what he had witnessed in those various stations); the Rev. John Scott, the Rev. Thomas Llewellyn, the Hon. James Ferrier, of Montreal; the Rev. Robinson Scott,

of Dublin; Mr. Ralph Wilson, the Rev. Edward Nye, and the Rev. Samuel Christophers. The various resolutions of thanks were moved by Mr. John Corderoy, the Rev. Thomas Jackson, and Mr. Thomas Wade, of Selby; the Rev. Dr. Bunting, and Mr. James Budget, of Bristol. All the resolutions were passed with unanimity. The announcement of the death of the Rev. Dr. Newton, made during the proceedings by the Rev. John Scott, produced a deep sensation.

LONDON CITY MISSION.

The anniversary meeting of the friends of this society was held on Thursday morning, in Exeter Hall; J. P. Plumptre, Esq., presiding. The hall was unusually crowded. After a brief introductory address by the chairman, the report of the committee was read. During the past year the society had, by the Divine blessing, been enabled to add to the number of its missionaries, thirty new ones having been appointed to different districts, in which one half the amount required for their support had been locally guaranteed. The returns of attendance on public worship, given by the last Census, showed that only six out of 100 of the lower classes were computed to attend; while the shops open on the Sabbath almost equalled in number those which were closed. This showed the vast field which existed for the operations of a society like this, and in this field it had successfully laboured during the past year. The number of church sittings which ought to exist in London was 1,400,000, but there were only 700,000. Of these only four in seven were occupied on Sunday mornings, one in seven in the afternoon, and three in seven in the evening. The absentees were the labouring classes. It further appeared from the return, that in no one district in England was the remissness of providing for the religious education of the poor so great as in London; and the inference drawn from this was, that in the future efforts of the benevolent the metropolis presented the strongest claim to the zealous and concentrated energies of the Church of Christ. Of the adults who died in London during the past year, one-fourth received no other visitation than from the missionaries of the society. The number of visits paid during the year was 1,439,318, or 199,000 more than the year preceding, and giving a number of nearly 4,000 Christian visits paid every day; 122,722 visits had been paid to the sick, or nearly 336 per day; portions of the Scriptures had been read 432,407 times, or 100 times every hour, supposing the day to be of twelve hours. The number of families assigned to the care of each missionary was 500, and this, taking each family to consist of four, would give a total of 650,000 persons under their care, or a greater number than were under instruction at any Church service at any one time. The number of prayer-meetings held during the year was 23,035. The income of the year had amounted to £27,484 19s. 4d., showing an excess over the year preceding of £1,003 9s. 11d. The report was received unanimously; and the meeting having been addressed by the Hon. and Rev. B. Noel, the Hon. and Rev. Montague Villiers, the Rev. W. Cadman, Sir E. Parry, and other gentlemen, separated after a vote of thanks to the chairman.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday in Exeter Hall; the Earl of Chichester in the chair. There were also present—the Earl of Cavan, Lord Haddo, Lord H. Cholmondeley, M.P., the Bishop of Sierra Leone, Sir T. D. Acland, M.P., Sir R. H. Inglis, Sir E. N. Buxton, M.P., Bishop Carr, Sir Edward Parry, the Revs. Dr. Kraff, Canon Stowell, E. Auriol, and T. Nolan; Mr. C. Moody, &c. The proceedings commenced with prayer and the reading of the Scriptures. The Chairman, in his opening address, alluded to the present war with Russia, regarding it as a chastisement inflicted upon the nations concerned in consequence of their misdeeds. The Rev. J. Venn then read the annual report, from which it appeared that the amounts received by the society during the past year had been as follows:—General fund, £110,478 13s. 2d.; fund for disabled missionaries, £2,016 11s.; China mission, £803 2s. 1d.; total received in the United Kingdom, £113,298 6s. 3d.; local funds, raised and expended in the missions, £10,617 12s. 8d.; making the gross income for the year, £123,915 18s. 11d., being an increase over that of last year of £2,983 15s. The expenditure, including general, special, and local funds, amounted to £131,783 13s. 11d., being an excess over the income of £7,867 15s. This excess included special grants out of the balance in hand, in April, 1863. In the year closed the current expenditure had, it was stated, been probably covered by the current income; but it was believed that the current expenses of the present year would be considerably increased by the enlargement of the missions; while the balance in hand, exclusive of working capital, was only £3,292. The following were the principal statistics of the society's missions presented in the report:—Number of stations, 118; English clergymen, 103; foreign clergymen, 49; Native and East Indian clergymen, 24; European laymen, 30; European female teachers, 14; Native catechists and teachers of all classes, 1,161; attendants on Christian worship in the society's missions throughout the world, estimated at, 107,000; number of communicants, 17,124. The report then dwelt at length on the extension, effected or contemplated, of several of the society's most important missions; to the success attending the labours of its agents; the promising character of many of the converts (especially those in the Punjab, the Sikhs, and the Mulvis); and the probable effects on missionary enterprise of the various movements at present agitating the world. Of the revolution in China a hopeful, yet anxious, expectation was expressed, it being stated that the insurgent leader kept 400 men

constantly employed in printing portions of Gutzlaff's version of the Scriptures, making his soldiers *colporteurs*, and his officers expounders. The meeting was then addressed by Lord Haddo, Lord Benholme, the Bishop of Sierra Leone, the Hon. and Rev. S. Waldegrave, the Rev. J. F. Penn, the Rev. Hugh Stowell, the Rev. George Fisk, and other gentlemen. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was held on Wednesday, at Exeter-hall; the Earl of Shaftesbury, President of the Society, in the chair. The hall was crowded in every part. Among the noblemen and gentlemen on the platform were—Earl Harrowby, Marquis of Cholmondeley, Bishop of Cashel, Lord Teignmouth, Lord Charles Russell, Sir T. D. Acland, Bart., Sir E. N. Buxton, Bart., Mon. and Rev. B. W. Noel, Rev. Dr. Barth, Rev. Dr. Marsh, Rev. J. A. James, Rev. T. Binney, Rev. J. W. Cunningham, Samuel Gurney, Esq.; Bishop Carr, T. Farmer, Esq., Rev. Wm. Arthur, Sir R. H. Inglis, Bart., Lord Chichester, Rev. T. Nolan, Rev. T. Milne, and the Bishop of Sierra Leone. The proceedings having commenced in the usual manner,

The Chairman, in his opening speech, adverted to the gratifying fact that the society had collected in one year the greatest amount of money ever gathered in one year by any religious society.

We have, I understand, collected this year (and it is a most remarkable fact), in free contributions, apart from the amount realised by sales, no less a sum than £150,000 (applause), to be expended, simply and solely, in circulating the Word of God into every region and corner of the earth. Now these things must be most consolatory to the mind of every man who cares for his country. This must be a strong indication that, in God's mercy, we are yet reserved for some great service in his future purposes of good to mankind. (Hear, hear.)

After sympathising letters had been read from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Norwich, the Report was read by the secretaries. It stated that the receipts of the year ending March 31, 1864, have far surpassed those of any former one, irrespective of the sums raised for special objects. The total receipts from the ordinary sources of income have amounted to £125,665 18s. 10d., being £16,505 8s. 2d. more than in the preceding year, and £8,225 9s. 7d. more than in any previous year. The receipts applicable to the general purposes of the society have amounted to £59,656 8s. 8d., including £35,875 5s. 9d. from auxiliary societies. The amount received for Bibles and Testaments is £66,009 10s. 2d., being an increase of £11,436 11s. on this item alone. To the above items must be added the sum of £66,507 7s. 9d., subscribed to the Jubilee Fund, and also £30,485 19s. 3d. to the Chinese New Testament Fund, making a grand total of £222,659 5s. 10d. The issues of the society for the year are as follow:—From the depot at home, 1,015,963; from depots abroad, 351,515: total, 1,367,528 copies—being an increase of 198,734 over those of last year. The total issues of the society now amount to 27,938,631 copies. The expenditure of the year has amounted to £119,257 15s. 1d., being an increase on the total net payments of £23,750 12s. 7d. The society is under engagements to the extent of £87,279 13s. 11d.

The adoption of the report was moved by Sir R. INGLIS in a hearty speech, and seconded by the Earl of HARROWBY. The latter in the course of his speech said:—

I do believe that there is an amount of heathenism around us which requires at least as much attention as any which exists in foreign countries, and I hope that a spirit will arise in the metropolis akin to that which three or four years ago influenced the young men of Manchester, who, in order that there might not be a family in the town unsupplied with the Scriptures, distributed, within a few months, 90,000 copies of God's Word. I should, I repeat, like to see a similar spirit exhibited by the young men of London.

The Bishop of CASHEL moved a vote of thanks to the officers of the society, with a specific reference to their labours, which was seconded by the Rev. J. A. JAMES, of Birmingham, who reminded his audience that prosperity had its snares:—

It is recorded that some eminent clergyman, the late Mr. Cecil, of St. John's, Bedford-row, that, when one of his congregation suddenly became rich, the good man, jealous for the safety of his hearer, waited upon him and said, "Sir, I hear that you are in great danger." His friend looked surprised, not being conscious of any peril that awaited him. "No," said he, "I am in no danger." "Yes," said Mr. Cecil, "you are." With still greater incredulity and surprise his friend looked at him, till at length Mr. Cecil said, "Sir, you are rich, I understand; and if that be not a state of danger there can be no truth in revelation." This is precisely the situation in which we are placed at the present moment; and Satan, aware of the circumstance, my lord, will endeavour to inflate our poor feeble minds with vanity, and puff us up with something like pride. God Almighty grant, that while we are thankful we may be humble. (Hear, hear.)

He lauded the grant of 50,000 copies of the Scriptures to our soldiers and sailors gone out to the war—though he himself was no advocate for war. Turning to China, Mr. James then described the condition of that great country, with its 300,000,000 population, which he feared would undergo great convulsion before it was converted to God.

The stagnancy that has held up that empire so long can never be purified but by awful storms. Therefore, let us stand prepared for some considerable time to elapse before China will yield to the missionary and the Bible, and be converted to Christ; and we must not be astonished if, after all, considerable defeats arise to puzzle and perplex our faith; but what a scene was that which the gentlemen on board Her Majesty's ship *Hermes*, off Silver Island, beheld, when one of the broad rivers of China was covered with the remains of idols and buddahs, twenty feet high, floating onwards to the ocean, perches for the sea-birds, or seeming monsters to affright the credulous and ignorant mariner. This, as one has observed, was not to cast the

idols to the moles and to the bats, but, at any rate, to the gulls and the fishes. (Laughter.)

He reminded his audience, that if they were not prepared fully to occupy this wide field, the Roman Catholics were. Another striking event connected with this was the opening of Japan through the agency of Russia. Referring to Mr. Thomas Thompson's happy idea—the Millions Testament Scheme, for China—he described how zealously it had been taken up in the Welsh mountains, in Scotland, in Ireland, in America, and almost every part of the world. Not only had the million Testament, been subscribed for, but nearly, if not quite, two millions. Mr. James then made a forcible appeal for increased aid for more missionaries to China.

The Rev. T. MILNE, in supporting the resolution, referred at considerable length to the politico-religious movement which is going on in the empire of China. He gave a detailed account of the rise and progress of the insurrection in that country, and anticipated from it the most happy results. As matters now stand, it was wholly impossible to predict with any degree of certainty which party would triumph in the conflict, and take permanent possession of the throne; but, whether this lot should fall either to an Imperialist or an Insurgent, he believed that there would, in the time to come, be more of liberty in that country for the prosecution of enterprises both civil and religious. He described the rebel chief as a very enlightened man, far in advance of his people generally, or even of those who are best instructed; and read passages from certain tracts which this man has written, and circulated very extensively, in proof of his assertions. From these extracts, it appeared that the Insurgent leader has a clear recognition of the unity of the Godhead and the brotherhood of humanity all the world over. The manner in which he has taught this in his tracts is so graphic and enlightened that the reading of the passages called forth the warmest expressions of approval from the audience. Should this man become the reigning monarch, Mr. Milne believed that every facility would be given for the circulation of the million Testaments over the whole extent of that vast continent; but, even if he should not, there was reason to believe that a way for their reception by the people would be opened at the proper time in the order of God's providence.

The Rev. JOHN YOUNG (Wesleyan), the Rev. Mr. HUSSEY, minister of St. James's, Kennington, Lord CHARLES RUSSELL, the Earl of CHICHESTER, Bishop CARL, and the Rev. J. ALDIS, subsequently addressed the meeting. The latter speaker, in simply seconding a resolution, said,—"I cannot speak with pleasure when people are in a moving humour. I like to move their hearts, but not their feet." (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN, in responding to the vote of thanks to himself, said that he held in high estimation the honour of being the President of that society, which conferred, but did not receive, *ecclat* from great names. Much had been accomplished, but how much yet remained:—

The sum that we have accumulated is very great; but I do implore you not to allow that to be to you as the pillars of Hercules, the point beyond which you will not prosecute your enterprise. Your contributions this year are great compared with former sums; but it is nothing at all, it is a drop of water in the ocean, compared to the energies and wealth which God has given to this great nation; and if you would act up to the sense of the responsibility which God has imposed upon you, your exertions will double those of the present year in the year to come, and the year beyond that you will do the same, and be not content until you shall have, by your influence, been the means of blessing the whole habitable globe. (Cheers.)

This terminated the proceedings.

(Continued on Page 397.)

Postscript.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

UNAUTHORISED NEGOTIATIONS.

In the House of Lords, last night, Lord CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the Unauthorised Negotiations Bill, which proposed to extend the criminal law, and to subject persons guilty of the practices set forth in the bill to the penalties of a misdemeanour. The measure, he said, was based on the acknowledged principle of the law of nations, that official intercourse between states could only be carried on by the governments of those states, or by ministers and agents duly authorised to conduct such negotiations. He referred to various cases of interference. Very recently a deputation of undoubted loyalty had proceeded to Russia to confer with the Emperor Nicholas on matters of grave importance. It was to restrain such unauthorised interference that he, at the head of the common law of the country, brought forward this measure, which he hoped their lordships would allow to be read a second time.

Lord LYNCHURST, in a speech of considerable length, pointed out various objections to the bill, and thought the recent journey of the deputation from the Society of Friends to St. Petersburg, who had gained nothing but ridicule for their pains, ought not to be treated in so serious a way.

After some further discussion the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be referred to a select committee.

THE MALT-TAX.

The report of the Committee of Ways and Means having been brought up, upon the resolution granting an additional duty on malt, Mr. E. BALL moved that the word "malt" be expunged from the resolution. He gave expression to the utter astonishment felt on his side of the House at the announcement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he proposed to add 50 per cent. to the malt duty, which would reopen a party warfare, on the question of Free-trade or Pro-

tective duties, which he hoped had terminated. Mr. BENTINCK seconded this amendment. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said this was merely a *pro forma* vote, authorising the revenue officers to prevent the evasion of the duty by the commodities being withdrawn out of bond. Mr. DISRAELI repeated his suggestion, made the preceding night, that the consideration of the resolution be postponed, citing precedents which he considered justified this course.

Lord J. RUSSELL resisted this suggestion, denying the applicability of the precedents cited. The postponement of the resolution would hazard a large amount of revenue.

After a short discussion upon this point, the House divided upon Mr. BALL's amendment, which was negatived by 224 to 143: and this resolution, with the others, was agreed to.

THE ORANGE RIVER SOVEREIGNTY.

Mr. ADDERLEY moved an address to Her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to reconsider the Order in Council for the promulgation of a proclamation abandoning all sovereignty over the Orange River territory and its inhabitants, in South Africa. His object, he said, was to vindicate the right of the people of this country to have a voice in the disposal of the dominions of the Crown. He reviewed the history of our connexion with this territory, distributed into epochs, from its first occupation by British subjects, in 1836, to what he maintained was its unnecessary abandonment; and put to the House the question, not whether the original occupation of the territory was desirable, or whether its abandonment was expedient, but whether a territory annexed to the dominions of the Crown, and settled by British subjects, ought to be so abandoned. Even assuming that the Crown had the power of renouncing this possession, the manner in which it had been exercised by Sir G. Clerk, he insisted, was informal and illegal, while the act itself was, he endeavoured to show, inexpedient, the territory being the key and heart of the whole South African colony, and affording, according to the testimony of Sir G. Clerk, a most favourable field for the introduction of Christianity.

Mr. F. PEEL observed, that Mr. Adderley had discreetly laid his chief stress upon the alleged illegality of the course pursued by the Government, because, as respected its policy and expediency, he knew that they had only carried out the intention of their predecessors, who had resolved to abandon the Orange River territory; and it was considered that the Crown was perfectly competent to take this course without an Act of Parliament, the country being a peculiar one, not acquired by colonization, but by conquest. The Government had proceeded in this matter, he added, on the advice of the law officers of the Crown. Mr. Peel then vindicated the policy and expediency of the measure, explaining the views and motives which had dictated it, and which would govern their conduct towards the British possessions in South Africa. The measure had not been hastily adopted, and it was supported by great authorities, including Sir George Clerk and Sir George Cathcart.

After some discussion, in which Sir J. PAKINGTON, Mr. V. SMITH, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, and Sir F. THESIGER took part, the motion was withdrawn.

CHURCH-RATES.

Mr. PACKE moved for leave to bring in a bill to relieve Dissenters from the payment of church-rates in certain cases, and otherwise to amend the law respecting the making, assessing, and collecting of church-rates in England and Wales.

Mr. HADFIELD complained that the hon. gentleman had not given a detail of his plan, for he had a fear that it would be found to contain something that would not be satisfactory to the Dissenters. ("Oh, oh!") He should oppose a motion coming from such a quarter. ("Oh, oh!")

Sir W. CLAY trusted the hon. member would not oppose the motion, but wait, at least, to see what the bill proposed. (Hear, hear.)

Lord PALMERSTON hoped that the hon. member would allow the bill to be brought in. On the part of the Government he was quite ready to sanction its introduction, reserving to himself full liberty to object to it should its provisions appear not expedient.

Mr. HADFIELD then withdrew his opposition, and the bill was ordered to be brought in.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In reply to Captain SCOBELL, who inquired whether coals were prohibited, as contraband of war, from being conveyed by neutral vessels to a Russian port, Sir J. GRAHAM said, the commanders of her Majesty's ships were instructed to exercise a sound discretion in such cases, with reference both to the port of destination and the use to which the commodity was to be applied.

Mr. BELL obtained leave to bring in a bill to extend the rights enjoyed by the graduates of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, in respect to the practice of medicine, to the graduates of the University of London.

Mr. PIGOTT also obtained a select committee to inquire into the mode in which medical relief is administered in the different unions in England and Wales.

Mr. DIGBY SEYMOUR obtained leave to bring in a bill to make fraudulent dealings with regard to bills of exchange felonious in certain cases.

THE WAR.

The report that the division of the Russian fleet, which has been lying frozen under the guns of Swaborg—being at last liberated from the ice—had ventured to creep out, and that Admiral Napier, on receiving this intelligence, had hoisted a signal to make ready for sea immediately, is not credited. The British fleet has been reinforced by *Prince Regent*, ninety, and *Cumberland*, seventy, both just arrived from England, with French liner *Austerlitz*, 100, in company. They sailed from Elsnabben on Thursday morning. The French

squadron did not anchor at Wingo Sound, but proceeded immediately up the Baltic to join the British fleet.

A despatch from Vienna, dated Monday, says:—"During the last week several conferences have taken place between Count Buol, the Earl of Westmoreland, and M. de Bourqueney, at which conditions were agreed upon, to be offered by Austria to Russia after the former has occupied Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Upper Albania. The conditions were said to be found acceptable by Baron Meyendorff. They were regarded as being probably the final attempt of Austria to restore peace before she declares herself."

Lord Raglan has arrived at Constantinople, and Prince Napoleon at Gallipoli.

The fleets were on the 25th of April cruising before Sebastopol. Divisions were sent off to Anapa and Redout-Kalé. Fifteen Russian merchantmen were seized before Sebastopol. The *Moniteur* of yesterday morning publishes intelligence from Athens up to the 2nd of May. The Chambers had been dissolved, and the insurgents beaten on every point, whether in Epirus, Thessaly, or Macedonia. New movements, however, are being organised by means of large subsidies from Russia. Three ships, conveying Greek volunteers, had been sunk by a French steamer, and the Turkish division near Salonica.

We learn from Vienna of the 6th that new proceedings have been taken by the Greek government with a view to avoid a declaration of war by the Porte. Austria and Prussia have united with the Western Powers to put down the insurrection. An armed intervention is to take place, but it is not yet arranged which Power shall be charged to carry it into execution.

The Austrian government has opened a subscription at Frankfurt and at Amsterdam for three millions and a half sterling.

Accounts from Varna of the 24th ult. inform us that two English and two French ships of war are blockading the Sulina mouth, and a part of their duty is to keep up a fire on the Russians who may be engaged in blocking up the stream. Their first cannonade took place on the 20th, nor was the result unsuccessful, though it was vigorously replied to by the Russian strand batteries.

Yesterday, the naval rendezvous on Tower-hill was besieged with young men and lads anxious to obtain employment in the steam gunboats fitting for the Baltic.

According to advices received by the *America*, the clipper-ship *Grapeshot*, reported to have captured a French vessel in the Channel, was lying on the 15th ult. at the mouth of the Mississippi river.

It is rumoured that the Earl of Elgin is charged with a special mission to the government of the United States, in reference to questions arising out of the present war. For this purpose his lordship will proceed to Washington on his return to his government of Canada.

A telegraphic despatch in anticipation of the Overland Mail contains the following:—

Burmah still continues in a disturbed state.

The electric telegraph between Agra and Calcutta, 800 miles, is completed.

The Russian fleet left Manila on the 18th of March for Batavia. The English steamer has not yet arrived at Alexandria.

The *City of Glasgow* steamer, which left Liverpool on the 1st of March, and has not since been heard of, had nearly 500 souls on board. It is feared she was destroyed by icebergs.

In a letter from Trieste, it is stated that the sequestration of the estates of 160 persons in Lombardy, and 29 in Venice, has been superseded.

Yesterday, Lord Waterford was returned without opposition for the city of Lichfield, in the room of Lord Anson, called to the House of Lords by his father's death.

The deaths in the metropolis, which in the last two weeks of April were respectively 1,193 and 1,211, rose in the first week of May to 1,263. Hence it appears that 217 persons died last week above the number derived by calculation from the experience of former seasons. The increase is owing in part to a great depression of the mean temperature, which fell from 52.6 degs. in the third week of April to 43.0 degs. in the fourth. The deaths in the last three weeks from diseases of the respiratory organs were successively 202, 186, and 226. The average of last week in previous years was 167. Persons who died of other diseases, would also suffer from the same cause. Diseases of epidemic character have also contributed to the increase. Scarletina has become more fatal during the last fortnight, and now kills in a week nearly 70 persons. Twelve persons died of small pox, which has also become more prevalent.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS' PICTURE.—That it may not escape observation, we call attention here to the advertisement of a Lecture, on this interesting work of art, by the Rev. G. Conder, at Exeter Hall, on Friday evening next. The subject and the orator are alike attractive.

IMPRISONMENT FOR CHURCH RATES.—There is a poor man in Winchester gaol for refusing to pay Church-rates. He is a parishioner of Ringwood in Hampshire. His wages were but 8s. a-week, and his rate was 1s. 9d., for the non-payment of which he is now an inmate of the county prison!

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, WEDNESDAY, May 10, 1854.

Our trade quiet to-day, prices as on Monday.

Arrivals this week:—Wheat, English, 610 qrs.; Foreign, 2,390 qrs. Barley, English, 320 qrs. Oats, English, 60 qrs.; Irish, 2,360 qrs.; Foreign, 8,810 qrs. Flour, 450 bks.; Foreign, 1,740 bks.; 1,590 barrels.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP RETURNS.

The return of the number of newspaper stamps at one penny issued to newspapers in the United Kingdom in 1851, 1852, and 1853, has been laid before the House of Commons. Its results are very interesting and instructive. The following is the statement of stamps issued for the *Nonconformist* from its commencement to the close of last year:—

1841	43,000
1842	110,850
1843	115,900
1844	117,064
1845	108,500
1846	113,500
1847	118,550
1848	145,850
1849	146,500
1850	154,175
1851	149,700
1852	149,175
1853	167,000

Thus for the last year, it will be seen that our average weekly circulation was somewhat over 3,200. We have great pleasure in drawing attention to the fact, that the circle of our supporters has been steadily enlarging from the commencement, and continues to increase.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The *NONCONFORMIST* affords an excellent medium for advertisements of Assurance Companies, Schools, Philanthropic and Religious Societies, Books, Situations, and Tradesmen's announcements, &c.

SCALE OF CHARGES.

	s. d.		s. d.
For 3 Lines ..	1 6	For 6 Lines ..	3 0
4 Lines ..	2 0	7 Lines ..	3 6
5 Lines ..	2 6	8 Lines ..	4 0

For every succeeding Line, 3d.

Eight Words are contained in a Line, and each Line of CAPITALS is charged as Two Lines. Advertisements must be paid for in advance.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY, 10, 1854.

SUMMARY.

DETAILS of the bombardment of Odessa, though far from complete, cast a more favourable light upon the first serious act of hostility by the allied Powers. The object of the attack was "to avenge the law of nations," and was carried out with great discretion. Only eight steam-frigates were engaged in the enterprise, the larger ships of war being held in reserve. In a few hours they had destroyed the fortifications, the batteries, and the military magazines of the Russians. Two powder-magazines of the enemy blew up during the action, and twelve ships of war were sunk. The commercial harbour was spared, and the merchant-ships in it escaped destruction. The loss of the allies only amounted to five killed, and ten wounded. Fifteen vessels laden with stores and ammunition were captured. The Russians admit a loss of only four killed and sixty-four wounded. It is admitted on all sides that they defended themselves with great courage and perseverance, but it is believed that the event will create an impression upon the Russian population favourable to the allies. The bombardment of Odessa will be remembered not less for the blow which it has inflicted on the power and prestige of Russia, than for the humanity with which it was conducted. It fails, however, entirely to solve the problem of the superior efficiency of modern naval gunnery, though it appears that the squadron were able to discharge their projectiles from a distance, almost beyond the range of the land-batteries. But these fortifications are very inferior to those of Sebastopol, and the greater part of the fleet has been reserved for a more formidable enterprise. Though the whole fleet sailed in the direction of Sebastopol, it is not likely that any attack will be made upon that formidable establishment, except from the land side, or, at all events, unless adequately supported by troops.

Expectation was stimulated to the tip-toe attitude yesterday, by the telegraphic announcement that the Russian Baltic fleet was leaving Helsingfors; and that, the news having been communicated to the British admiral at Elfsnabbon, he had immediately made the signal for pursuit. So little reliance is to be placed on the local rumours to which the telegraph gives instant universal diffusion, that it is hardly worth while to speculate whether the Grand Duke Constantine's fleet has left the snug security of Sweaborg on the desperate chance of beating Sir Charles Napier before his French division arrives, or whether it is hoped to reach Cronstadt with the first open water of the season. The only thing of which we may be assured is, that they will have either to fly or fight, if they do venture from behind the Gibraltar of the Baltic. Nor even there can they be long secure. The French fleet, last heard of in Wingo Sound, will increase the naval force of the

allies to an amount before which hardly rocks and granite walls can be impregnable. But, that success may be neither partial nor uncertain, the French Government, it is announced, will supply land forces to co-operate with the fleets; and with that view, the formation of camps at St. Omer and Marseilles is ordered. Nor even there stops the accumulation of chances against the enemy. The adhesion of Norway and Sweden to the Western alliance is becoming every day more likely; the democratic habits of the former nation, and the traditional passions of the latter, forcing upon the Government a decision that may be unwelcome—unless, indeed, our sailor-diplomatist, in the interview with King Oscar, when his Majesty was so demonstratively polite, offered authorised assurances of defence and reward.

The "Sublime" Porte is plainly in the hands of the stranger. Long a prey to diplomatists and intriguers, it is now subject to the open dictation of foreign soldiers. General D'Hilliers, it seems, had demanded the exemption of *Catholic* Greeks from the edict of expulsion. Redschid Pasha demurred to the demand, and was sustained, as usual, by Lord de Redcliffe. But the General has triumphed over Turk and Englishman, getting his way with an apology for the temporary obstruction. The British regiments lodged at Scutari were paraded, one day in Easter week, on the field of Haydas-Pasha; since when Lord Baglan has arrived at Constantinople, and part of the troops have received marching orders for Adrianople. Meanwhile, Omar Pasha holds unimpaired, the line of defence to the coast; Silistria is not only uncaptured, but almost unassailed; and the condition of the Russian army in the Dobrudscha must be one of terrible suffering and waste. The King of Greece has dissolved the Chambers, and is declared to be bent on prosecuting the insurrectionary war, which is also reported to have been suppressed in Epirus. The position of Austria still continues painfully ambiguous; the real destination of her armies on the Turkish frontiers as uncertain as when they first moved thither; and negotiations with Russia turning on conditions to be offered after the Austrian occupation of Turkish territory. Perhaps the assent of our Government to the organization of a Polish legion—announced at the dinner of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland, last Wednesday—will effectually teach the dubitating powers how in earnest we are, and what elements of retribution upon false friends we hold.

The supplementary estimates—including 15,000 additional soldiers, and amounting in all to six millions—were voted on Friday night, without objection; there appearing nothing unreasonable or exorbitant but the item of £2,610,200 for transport services, of which Sir James Graham offered an explanation. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Disraeli again charged the sole responsibility of the war on Lord Aberdeen, but ostentatiously abstained from hostile criticism upon its conduct. Admiral Dundas was defended by hon. gentlemen on both sides from the censures incurred by his inactivity; and Mr. Baillie received a satisfactory answer to the complaint of partisanship in the distribution of navy appointments. Mr. Cobden praised the Government for the humane and even generous spirit in which they had opened the war; and urged entire abstinence from the destruction or seizure of private property. Lord John Russell pointed out the great practical difficulty of avoiding, if this were done, a result the very opposite of that intended by Mr. Cobden; but Mr. M. Gibson courageously urged further efforts to mitigate the severities, without protracting the duration, of the contest.

The total estimated cost of the war for the financial year on which we have just entered, as exhibited by Mr. Gladstone on Monday evening, is ten millions. The Board of Trade returns just issued, show that through the first month of actual as through many months of apprehended war, the resources from which we must meet this unwelcome demand have continued unimpaired, and even expansive. The increase in the declared value of "enumerated articles," exported in the month ending April 5, upon that of the same articles in the same month of last year, is upwards of one million. The most marked increase is in the most important of our manufactures. The increase of imports is also very decided; that of wheat, really wonderful—567,220 quarters, as compared with 287,156 quarters imported last year. In most other articles of food but tea—from purchases of which dealers naturally held back till the reduction of duty—there is also a gratifying increase. On the whole, then, we may say, our people are well fed and well employed; and the concurrence of testimony as to the prospects of the next harvest, encourages the hope of even increased prosperity.

From the anticipatory digest of the American mail, we learn the abandonment of the Nebraska Bill. The intelligence is communicated in a single line; and to the same little space we must confine our expression of rejoicing gratitude that our kinsman nation has been spared another crime.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE interest of the House of Commons is always more or less a reflected interest, but it has been so especially since the commencement of the war. As in the country generally it is difficult to force any topic upon public attention but such as has a direct relation to the Eastern question, so in the House, neutral subjects (if we may so phrase it) attract very little regard. The Session, in so far as its domestic policy is concerned, will be a blighted one—its early blossoms have all been nipped as by an east wind—its fairest fruits, and also the most bitter, drop one by one unripe from the legislative stem. Questions respecting the movements of our forces, supplementary estimates, and increased taxes, pretty nearly absorb the time of the House—or, if any exception must be made, it must be made in favour of the Church. The only other class of topics, save those which are warlike, capable of laying hold upon the sympathies of Parliament, is that which can best be described as "ecclesiastical." Between the Church and the war the life of discussion is preserved from utter extinction—and it is doubtful whether during the present Session we should know what to do, were it not that the Bishops and their creatures furnish us with plenty of work. Let no one, therefore, expect any considerable Ministerial measure to be carried. The Reform bill is gone—the Bribery bills and the Settlement and Removal bill are shelved—the Oaths bill is drifting towards oblivion—the Scotch Education bill will never struggle through Committee—and, no doubt, the Oxford University bill, even if it should succeed in leaving the Commons, will be mercilessly extinguished in the House of Lords.

Accordingly, we have nothing to report but what relates to the Church, the Horse Guards, and the Treasury—for the bill which affects to reform the Oxford University must be regarded as essentially a Church bill. The proceedings of Wednesday were rather of a negative than positive character—for, with the exception of Mr. Headlam's measure for amending the laws of Mortmain, there was a determined clearance of "private and independent" bills. But on Thursday, Oxford took its place in committee, and probably was treated with less superstitious respect than ever it has been before for the last two hundred years. The particular question which drew out the eloquence of the House, and the discussion of which preserved well-filled benches, was one which had two sides, of course, but they were so alike, so closely related, so nearly resembling the controversy between Tweedledum and Tweedledee, that it was difficult to almost every party to vote with perfect satisfaction. This question occurred in the sixth clause of the bill. The proposal of Ministers was, to give the election of six members of the new governing council to the "congregation," which consists of all the members of the University resident at Oxford. Sir John Pakington wished to place the said election in the hands of "convocation," which is composed of all the living members of the University, wherever they may reside. Both bodies are predominantly clerical—but it is said by those who may be supposed to know, that the "congregation" is more reforming, the "convocation" more fanatical and ferocious. Be this as it may, the contest was warm, and the speaking more than usually animated, considering the nature of the subject. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Henley had a close and somewhat personal encounter—a sort of hand-to-hand fight over Oxford Puseyism—but it came to nothing, warm as it was for a moment. In the division, as might have been anticipated, there was a curious mixture of the same elements in both lobbies; and although Ministers carried their point, very few persons appeared either to know or to care whether they had voted right or wrong.

Friday was devoted chiefly to the Supplementary Estimates—army, navy, ordnance, and militia. The evening was an extremely dull one, for every member was aware that the conclusion was foregone, and that no division would be taken. The long successive statements, therefore, of Sir James Graham, Mr. Sidney Herbert, and Mr. Monsell, were listened to by just such a number of members, and just such an amount of attention, as might be deemed necessary to throw around formal acts of considerable importance, an air of decorum. Into the several items, we have no design in this place to enter—nor can we say that the slight show of discussion which took place, related, even in a remote degree, to the principal matters in hand. And, perhaps, as we are at war, the wisest, the safest, and the most humane method of conducting it, is to put forth our utmost strength at its commencement. At any rate, such, for the present, seems to be the prevailing feeling of the country; and such is certainly the general disposition of the House. Considering the very large addition which has been made to our expenditure solely by this war, and the sacrifice of political expectations which all classes have silently consented to, it will be obvious enough to foreign powers, and especially to Russia, that the war, just now at least, is far

from unpopular in England. What it will be at this time next year, who will undertake to say?

Of course a large additional outlay requires a large additional income. A Committee of Supply is commonly followed by a Committee of Ways and Means. On Monday, therefore, Mr. Gladstone made his second Financial Statement. The House was well filled—we may say, crowded. The Chancellor of the Exchequer laid himself out for a great effort—and, assuredly, he displayed extraordinary power. From half-past five till nine o'clock, he succeeded in keeping up general attention, and that, too, on a subject not merely unattractive, but, to some extent, repulsive in its character. His elaborate defence of his past financial proceedings, although deemed successful, was less exciting than the topics which followed. Every one was on the *qui vive* when he proceeded to announce the fresh taxes which he proposed to lay on; and when, in a sort of mock-confidential tone, he leant across the table and told the Opposition that he intended, as one of his expedients, to increase the Malt-tax, his manner as well as his matter provoked a sudden roar of laughter. His bold defence of his plans against the money power of the City, and his exposure of the terrible vices of the loan system, were listened to with favour, and sanctioned by the acclamations of the House; and his peroration was as eloquent and impressive as the subject would admit of. He sat down amidst a perfect storm of cheering. A little desultory conversation followed, some formal votes were taken, and the House adjourned before twelve o'clock.

Last night there was a muster to strike out malt from the resolutions, on the bringing up of the report. It was an attempt by the Opposition to take Government by surprise, but it signally failed. Several other motions were brought on by private members, for the discussion of which we must refer our readers to our Postscript.

FURTHER WAR PAYMENTS.

Two months ago, three millions and the Reform Bill were asked of us as the first war payment on account. That was for expenses incurred before a shot was fired, or a regiment put in motion. Now we are asked for nearly seven millions more,—although we are very little further than we were in March; only a few hours' expenditure of bombshells made, and a field-day celebrated on the further shore of the Bosphorus. Ten millions to begin with!

To reconcile us to this further demand, and show how we can comply with it, was the object of Mr. Gladstone's great speech on Monday night. His task was somewhat the easier for the fact, that a few evenings before the House had ordered the expenditure for which he had now to provide. Three hundred thousand pounds for fifteen thousand soldiers, in addition to the twenty-five thousand already voted—£742,132 for clothing and arming these new levies—an additional naval expenditure to the amount of four-and-a-half millions—and half a million for the augmentation of the militia,—items mounting up to just £6,000,000,—were the charges which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no option but to meet; judiciously adding £850,000 more, for contingent or unforeseen expenses, he asked for the exact sum of £6,850,000.

The doubling of the income-tax for the second half of the financial year was an announcement for which every one was prepared. In making his first financial exposition for the year, Mr. Gladstone distinctly intimated, that the addition of fifty per cent. to the tax would not meet either the requirements of the public service, or his views of the capabilities of that tax, should the war then imminent become an actual engagement. The increased yield of the tax was calculated in March at £3,370,000. The produce of the addition now proposed is calculated at only a little less—£3,250,000. If these calculations be realised, the total annual yield of this wonderfully prolific source of revenue will be no less than £12,832,000. We shall, therefore, for this year at least, defray two-thirds of the expense we incur in defending Turkey, punishing Russia, or whatever may be our object in fighting, out of an additional tax on our profits or earnings—which additional tax is to cease with the war; and the entire impost continue on its course to extinction. Still, a deficiency of three millions and a-half in the provision for war charges exists. This proportion the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to charge upon the classes exempt from income-tax—very justly, we should say, if the war be indeed for national objects; or has received the decided sanction of these classes, through the meagre extra-constitutional organs of expression which they possess. But there is no other direct tax by which they can be reached. Except these war charges be insinuated into the cost of commodities which they universally consume, the masses will escape their just share of the burden. But it was admirably described by Mr. Gladstone as a "wretched office" to have to search among the scanty luxuries of the industrious for the subjects of fresh taxation. With

something of the distracted affection of a parent at being compelled to choose from among his children the victim for a sacrifice, must the pupil of Sir Robert Peel have gone over the long catalogue of articles recently relieved from fiscal fetters, or marked out, with beneficent foresight, for early manumission. First, he would look at the articles in which he had the liveliest because latest interest—at soap and tea; but speedily would decide, for the very sufficient reasons announced to the House, not to undo such recent well-doing. Tobacco would catch his eye by the handsome figure it makes in the returns; but conscious that the blessed weed is already the subject of vile manipulations because of most disproportionate taxation, he would fear to tamper with a revenue literally based on smoke. The penny-post is so magnificently successful a scheme, and has just received such a crowning advantage to its operation, that to make it more productive, at the cost of all its symmetry, he would feel to be an infinite pity. So he would come to the spirit-duties; a recent addition to which having proved neither a check to consumption nor a stimulus to smuggling, they would seem quite to invite a repetition of the experiment. The malt-duty rivals that on tobacco in productiveness, and—despite the impatience of agriculturists and the seductive promises of Mr. Cobden—will bear an addition of nearly fifty per cent. without making beer more than a halfpenny a quart dearer; so, fortifying himself with quotations of the twin malt and beer duties within memory of this generation, the resolute statesman sees an end to the perplexities of the financier. The £700,000 still wanting he can readily obtain by deferring a little longer the expiration of the sugar duties, set down for extinction next July; throwing in, by way of partial compensation, a scheme of equalization.

On the only remaining feature of this budget for the year—namely, a scheme for obtaining cash in advance of the tax-collector, by the issue of *interim* Exchequer Bonds and Bills—we will not here pronounce an opinion. The distinction drawn by Mr. Gladstone between "borrowing" and "drawing on account," is one not easily grasped, savouring rather of the Oxford sophist than the Free-trade financier. But we must also give him credit for an honest desire to dissipate the mystery that too much attaches to finance; and we may be sure that if the new device be unsound, it will not survive the severe analysis to which, with other of Mr. Gladstone's novelties, it will be subjected on Monday next. For his resolute resistance to the profligate system of loans—profligate so long as not strictly necessary—and his equally resolute adherence to the policy of preferring direct to indirect taxation, we deem him entitled to the gratitude of his country; and that gratitude may easily extend to confidence. We see not alone a financial and moral, but also a great political, advantage in the course on which he has entered. If we have to pay for our battles as they are fought—or rather for the armaments sent to fight them—we shall be vigilant over the conduct and anxious about the objects of the war. That the latter result is not already attained, we so much regret that we could have consented to purchase it at even a heavier price to the tax-payer.

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

CONCURRENTLY with the returns for Scotland, referred to on another page, the public are put in possession of the Educational Census of England and Wales, forming a volume equal in bulk to that which has already received so large a share of attention, and having prefixed a report characterised by the same high qualities which distinguish Mr. Mann's ecclesiastical essay. Indeed, the task devolved on that gentleman has been more delicate than in the former instance, since he has had to occupy well-fought ground and to hold the balance between more keenly contending parties. Apart from the statistics, we think that Voluntary educationists may quote this report as sustaining their case; while, on the other hand, we do not suppose that our opponents will accuse Mr. Mann of partisanship.

We, however, wish it to be understood that, not being statistical conjurers, we do not profess to have made a full acquaintance with the contents of 480 pages—and of such pages!—during the few hours which have passed since their publication. We have run our eager eye over its leading sections, and believing that our readers will be solicitous to be put in possession of general results, without waiting for an exhaustive analysis, we propose in this article to call attention to the more salient points of the report.

The ultimate result of the educational census of England and Wales is tabulated thus:—

	Day Schools.			Evening.	
	Total.	Public.	Private.	Schools.	Adults.
Schools	46,042	15,518	30,524	23,514	1,545
Scholars	2,144,378	1,422,982	721,396	2,407,642	39,783

The satisfactoriness, or otherwise, of this statement, in so far as it relates to day-schools, must

of course be dependent on the reply given to the enquiry—what proportion of the population should be receiving education in them? Making allowance for various impediments, Mr. Mann arrives, step by step, at the conclusion that 3,015,405 is the number of children which should be receiving instruction in day-schools—such number consisting of all between five and twelve, not occupied, nor receiving professional home instruction, nor absent from illness, and of all such below five or above twelve as parents choose to send or to keep at school. The comparison of the existing facts with the standard thus set up, is given in a passage which we quote, and which also introduces another important element, viz:—the length of time during which education is imparted:—

While the total number of day scholars (at school) in England and Wales at all ages is 2,144,378, out of a population of 1,7927,609, being in the proportion of one to eight and one-third, the number of day scholars between three and fifteen years of age is 2,046,848 out of a population, between those years, of 4,908,606, being in the proportion of one to two two-fifths; and the number, between five and fifteen is 1,768,231 out of a population of 4,005,716, being in the proportion of one to two two-sevenths. The average school-time, therefore, of all the children in England and Wales between their third and fifteenth year is as nearly as possible five years, and between their fifth and fifteenth years it is four two-fifth years. But as some (the children of the middle and upper classes) doubtless spend more than five years at school between three and fifteen, and more than four two-fifths years between five and fifteen, the average for the children of the working classes must be less than five years and four two-fifths years respectively—probably not more than four two-thirds years in the former case and four years in the latter.

Thus judged, our educational condition is pronounced to be "far from satisfactory" in respect both to numbers and to the average duration of schooling.

As our purpose here is simply to supply facts, we turn to another portion of the report to quote a passage which, we think, has a logical connexion with what has just been stated:—

Popular education may be said to be almost entirely the creation of the present century. The records and the recollections which describe society so recently as fifty years ago bear testimony to a state of ignorance and immorality so dense and general, that if any member of the present generation could be suddenly transported to that earlier period, he would probably be scarcely able, notwithstanding many abiding landmarks, to believe himself in England, and would certainly regard the change which half a century has witnessed in the manners of the people as but little short of the miraculous.

And here are the figures which justify this decided and suggestive statement:—

It appears as to day-schools that, while in 1818 there was a scholar for every 17.25 persons, and in 1833 a scholar for every 11.27 persons, in 1851 there was a scholar for every 8.36 persons; and as to Sunday-schools, it appears that while in 1818 there was one Sunday scholar for every 24.40 persons, and in 1833 one scholar to every 9.28 persons, in 1851 there was one scholar to every 7.45 persons. The increase between 1818 and 1851 was, of day scholars, 218 per cent., and of Sunday scholars 404 per cent.; while the increase of population was but 64 per cent.

Speaking, therefore, of school provision and attendance, relatively, Mr. Mann, reversing his terms, is able to describe our progress as "far from unsatisfactory," as indicating an immense amount of philanthropic energy, excited, for the most part, for the advantage of the working classes.

"That some of the existing schools are inefficient," is a statement which none will question; but, in making it, Mr. Mann furnishes gratifying proofs of the exertions which are being put forth by various bodies to raise the scale of tuition. State-educationists will, no doubt, assiduously sift this portion of the report for evidence in support of the position upon which—finding figures to be against them—they have now fallen back. They will indeed, stand in need of some such help, if it be only to serve as a breakwater against the heavy tide which rolls in upon them in another direction. For, in endeavouring to solve the problem presented by the fact, that 968,557 healthy unemployed children are not enjoying the advantages of education, Mr. Mann curtly says, "The want of school accommodation is, perhaps, the very least of the existing impediments, for in a multitude of cases where great numbers of children live from day to day without instruction, they have actually in the very midst of them an ample school provision—many buildings being occupied by barely half the number of scholars who might daily assemble in them."

Neither, he asserts, is poverty the cause, seeing that the working classes spend millions a-year in selfish and debasing indulgence; and "in many free schools, though located in the midst of populous neighbourhoods, the attendance of scholars is less numerous and much less constant than in schools which require a fee."

"The grand cause," he declares to be the indifference of parents, who have no desire that their children should receive instruction, however easily attainable. "A vast work, therefore," he observes, "evidently lies before us in the education of the parents, ere we can expect them to be earnest for the education of their children;" and, among other modes of secondary education, we find him enumerating "an abundance of cheap newspapers" as

likely to do more to assist education than would "several millions of money spent upon elementary schools without some such inducement for the people to attend them."

Just noticing in passing the significant statement, that our private schools seem "to be in course of gradual extinction," from the competition to which they are exposed from public schools, we, in conclusion, would point those who throw scorn on the religious bodies as the great obstructives to the education of the people, to the testimony of Mr. Mann, that "no feature of our educational advancement in the present century is more remarkable than this—the great extent to which whatever progress, satisfactory, or otherwise, has been achieved, is owing to denominational activity or rivalry. This, doubtless, has been hitherto the most prevailing influence by which the cause of popular instruction has been aided."

Promising a return to so rich a mine of interesting facts as is to be found in the volume from which we have thus briefly quoted, we add one more passage as furnishing, in expressive terms, the moral of the whole:—

The action of religious bodies in the matter of popular education has throughout the present century been powerful, extensive, and increasing; and the present result of their exertions constitutes by far the most important and conspicuous feature of our educational position. It is scarcely possible to avoid being deeply impressed by the accumulated evidence we now apparently possess of the inexhaustible resources and illimitable enterprises of religious zeal. The fact that this unwearied agent, which, in little more than half a century, has erected twenty thousand places of religious worship—founded three-and-twenty thousand Sunday-schools, containing two and a quarter millions of scholars—and brought within the compass of its Christian charity the utmost regions of the globe—the fact that this insatiable benevolence has also almost wholly reared, and is now in greater part sustaining, upwards of ten thousand day-schools, in which more than a million children of the poorer classes are from day to day instructed—cannot but excite a very lively sense, not only of the obligations under which the country lies to the workings of religious principle, but also of the vast extent to which in future all the institutions of popular education must be necessarily pervaded by religious influence.

AUTHORITY MISPLACED AND MISUSED.

THE Railway Traffic Regulation Bill, which Mr. Cardwell, as President of the Board of Trade, carried into Committee of the House of Commons, on Thursday night, has an instructive political moral. In virtue of the permissive power given by the Legislature to railway companies in the construction of their lines, the Legislature has vested in the Board of Trade the supervision of these roadways. That the power thus bestowed is either inefficient or is very feebly exercised, is only too obvious; for while English railways enjoy, in the cheapness of coal and iron, the superior skill of artisans, and the abundance of capital, facilities all their own, they are notoriously dearer, less comfortable, and in every point, but that of speed, worse managed, than any of the Continental lines.

Mr. Cardwell introduced a Bill for the better regulation of these things. An outcry against usurpation and intolerable interference—complaints not altogether groundless—was the immediate result. A delegation of railway potentates held a meeting with the Minister, and induced his adoption of their suggestions. The Bill thus altered is as useless to the public as it was before unjust to the companies. As if conscious that he is not the rightful arbiter between travellers and shareholders, Mr. Cardwell sinks into virtual inaction, with a cry for credit to his good intentions, and compassion on his "difficulties."

Why not make travellers and shareholders nearly identical? Abolish the law of partnership which as mischievously as unjustly fetters the right of association, and no small proportion of the multitude who now simply use the railway, may purchase a property therein. In a constituency thus enlarged, you possess the best guarantee for the fair administration of an *imperium in imperio*.

THE WAR.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF ODESSA.

The information received on this important event, although by no means complete, somewhat alters the complexion of the first news, and show that the combined fleet did their work effectually. No despatches from the British Admiral have yet been published, but the *Moniteur* has published a short despatch from the French Admiral, dated April 25; and a report from the Russian General, Osten-Sacken, of the same date, has been published, considerably at variance with the former and with the accounts published in the German papers. There is no doubt that it was on the afternoon of the 21st of April that the combined fleets, consisting of six three-deckers, thirteen two-deckers, and nine steam-frigates, cast anchor at a distance of about two miles from the town of Odessa. At four o'clock, P.M., Admiral Dundas and Admiral Hamelin sent in a flag of truce to demand the surrender of the Russian harbour, to which summons no answer was returned. At half-past six on the following morning the nine steamers of the fleet—or, as the French account says, eight, of which five were English and three French

—came within range, and attacked the batteries of the Imperial mole. The Russians appear to have greatly overrated the real force of these steamers, for General Osten-Sacken affirms that one was a vessel of fifty-four guns, and several others of thirty-four guns; whereas the *Retribution*, which is the heaviest steam frigate of the fleet, carries but twenty-eight guns, and the other vessels have a considerably smaller armament. The Russian batteries are stated to have been armed with forty-eight-pounders only, and in consequence the steamers were enabled to pour in the fire of their heavy guns without suffering much inconvenience in return. It does not appear that the large ships took any part in the action. It seems, however, that a successful attempt was made in boats to throw Congreve rockets into one of the suburbs where the military stores were collected, and to burn the shipping in the port. But the Russian account suppresses the important fact, expressly stated in the French despatch, that the powder magazine exploded, and that the naval establishments in the port were either burnt or seriously injured by the shells. All the accounts concur in stating that the town of Odessa, properly so called, was untouched, and, although by far the greater part of the inhabitants had fled in extreme dismay, those who remained seem to have incurred very little real danger. The Russian bulletin acknowledges only four killed and sixty four wounded on the side of the enemy, and it is asserted that only one battery of four guns was effectually destroyed, after a fire of many hours, when the troops were, according to both accounts, burnt out of it. The *Moniteur* states, however, that the mole or jetty of the quarantine harbour was defended by a battery of twelve guns, which appears to correspond to the battery No. 6 in the Russian report, and this post was undoubtedly defended with great tenacity. The sea is described as rough during the whole day, and the wind blew from the shore. As evening approached, the conflagration of the vessels and the stores raged with terrible effect, but the inhabitants had already evacuated the town, and, though a renewal of the attack by the heavier ships of the line was apprehended on the 26th, the fleets weighed anchor on that day and quitted the coast.

It appears that only steam frigates were engaged in the attack on Odessa—the large vessels and the screw men-of-war were held in reserve. The Russian bulletin alleges that one of the batteries held out for six hours against eight steamers of the enemy, reinforced by a screw steamer of eighty-four guns! It is described as a brilliant feat of arms. The combined fleet, further says the veracious General, "even attempted a landing, but the grapeshot from four pieces of light artillery, covered by six companies of infantry, prevented the execution of that enterprise. The boats were met by our balls, and experienced considerable loss." The *Vienna Presse* says:—

The loss of the Russians, who displayed the greatest intrepidity, is estimated at 200 men, more than 300 were dangerously, and more than twice that number less severely, wounded. Six magazines were burnt. The city suffered comparatively little, though a few of the principal buildings, and among the rest the Woronzoff Palace, were a prey to the flames. Odessa has completely changed its external appearance. The terrific cannonade has broken all the windows, many chimneys have fallen, and the steeples of many churches are injured. The fleet also suffered, for five ships were put *hors de combat*, and taken in tow to Varna. The French attempted to land at the south-west end of the port, but were repulsed with loss by a powerful Russian force. We are still occupied in quenching the burning ruins.

Among the prizes taken to Varna is one which is said to have a very considerable sum in silver on board. The garrison of Odessa is estimated at from 30,000 to 35,000 men. A letter published by the *Paris Constitutionnel* describes the consternation prevailing at Odessa, and says that the insult offered to the English flag of truce was "the object of universal reprobation." The sight of the wounded soldiers brought in from the batteries, and the brutality of the Governor and the troops towards the inhabitants, were not calculated to allay the panic. This affair produced great discouragement among the troops, and an excellent effect on the population, who perceived that the Russian army was not able to protect them, and that if the city was not reduced to ashes it was solely owing to the generosity of the allied Powers.

THE DANUBE.

A report reached town on Wednesday afternoon, by telegraph from Vienna, that Omar Pasha had inflicted a terrible defeat upon the Russian corps under General Lüders, "between Silistria and Rassoia." Further, it was said, that the Ottoman General had advanced, on the 18th and 19th, towards the Dobrudzha; that he had detached a division eastward, which on the following day, during the height of the battle, fell upon the Russian rear, "causing unexampled confusion and consternation;" and that General Lüders had retreated towards Czernavoda, having lost many guns, much ammunition, stores, baggage-waggons, and "even the military chests." Unfortunately, there are strong reasons for believing that this report is incorrect, and that it refers to the combat at Czernavoda, fought, as reported previously, on the 20th of April, at Czernavoda. That encounter, whatever it was, did not check the Russian advance, for they had been credibly reported clear of Trajan's Wall. Nor is this all. Omar Pasha was certainly at Schumla on the 16th of April: at that date he was concentrating his forces, with the intention of waiting a favourable moment for an attack. He had with him probably from 60,000 to 70,000 men; and there was no sign of his moving on an expedition to a field sixty or seventy miles distant.

Another story is, that a Turkish flying corps, on the 20th April, crossed the Danube below Silistria, in order to destroy the Russian strand-batteries; that they advanced to Kalarash, fought "like lions" for some hours, and then withdrew before overwhelming forces.

It was reported some days since that the batteries at the Sulina mouth of the Danube had been bombarded by a portion of the combined fleet, but the report has not been confirmed.

The Turks have taken possession of Lesser Wallachia and Marshal Paskiwitch has announced that he had evacuated that province for strategic reasons, but will probably return to Krajova and inflict martial law upon all who assist the enemy. The Turks have issued a very tranquillizing proclamation. None are to be prosecuted for political opinions. Every one is to continue his usual occupation, and it is promised that everything shall be paid for. Three thousand kilogrammes of rice are to be distributed among the poor. The Bishop of Krajova goes to meet the Turks, at the head of a deputation.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH EXPEDITION.

The French have 22,000 men at Gallipoli and the English some 5,000. The French troops are now being landed at Rodolpho and the English at Scutari. Complaints respecting the accommodation of the troops have ceased, and the Turkish officials are most attentive to the requirements of the new comers.

According to advices from Constantinople of the 27th ult., the French Ambassador insisted on the united Catholic Greeks being permitted to remain in Turkey. A serious misunderstanding arose, and General Baraguay d'Hilliers prepared to leave Constantinople, when the Porte yielded. It is said that Rodschid Pacha apologized, and that certain individuals named by the general will enjoy his protection, these persons being Catholics and Greeks. The general, being satisfied by this arrangement, will remain here.

There is little doubt that General d'Hilliers has been recalled to receive his *baton* as a Marshal of France. General Daumas, who has great experience of Oriental habits and usages, is spoken of as likely to be his successor.

A part of the troops in the camp of Hayder Pasha have received marching orders for Adrianople.

The *Moniteur* states that the English and French Governments have come to an understanding with a view to the adoption of every precautionary measure which the present war may render necessary. With this object, the Emperor has just decided upon the formation of two camps for exercise. The first, composed of 100,000 men, will be established on the banks of the Channel, between Montreuil and St. Omer; the second, of 50,000 men, will be formed near Marseilles. The English Government, on its part, is organizing troops and a fleet capable of carrying, in case of necessity, whatever troops may be required either in the Baltic or in the Black Sea.

THE BALTIC.

The French squadron under Admiral Parseval Deschenes has reached Wingo Sound.

Swedish enthusiasm in favour of the British fleet was marked and decided. The Government had gone to the verge of neutrality by placing the steamer *Gylfe* at the disposal of Sir C. Napier. Admiral Plumridge had been up the Finnish Gulf, to restore the buoys taken away by Russian order. Wherever he landed all was desert. In one hut he found a dying man, with his coffin at his side; the rest of the inhabitants had fled, without leaving him any food. He met, of course, with the kindest treatment on the part of the British officers, and was much astonished by the fact, as the belief had been spread about that Englishmen were savage robbers, who spared neither women nor children. Near Revel they had been fired upon from some land batteries, but without any effect.

Sweden continues her warlike preparations. Five fresh batteries of artillery have been ordered to be put on the war footing.

According to advices from St. Petersburg of the 27th ult., the ice in the river began to break up on the 25th, but at Cronstadt it was allfast. A letter from the Baltic of the 25th ult., in the *Moniteur*, says:—The approach of hostilities is strongly felt at St. Petersburg, and measures are taken with a view to dangers which are profoundly apprehended, though denied. Four batteries have been just established at the entrance of the Neva. The metallic reserve of the fortress was sent eight days ago to Moscow. Many persons are leaving for the interior of the country. The departure of the Emperor for Peterhoff, where the Court was to have gone on the 27th, is adjourned. His Majesty is in such ill health that he had been obliged to countermand twice a review which he had intended to pass. The displeasure (*mécontentement*) caused by the policy of Austria was every day expressed more openly.

THE GREEK INSURRECTION.

The Greek insurgents in Epirus have suffered defeat recently. The town of Arta has been retaken by the Turks; and 3,000 insurgents under Karaiskies have been defeated by Omar Pasha. They have also met with a defeat at Metzovo. Their head-quarters, Peta, had been taken by storm. All the Greek waters are now sharply watched by French and British cruisers.

Pirates have begun to show themselves in the Archipelago. It is reported at Marseilles, that the *Harriette*, an English merchant-ship, has been plundered by Greek pirates off Andros, and its crew massacred.

The Greek Government has issued a circular to the European Powers, giving its own version of the proximate cause of the departure of the Ottoman Ambassador from Athens; remonstrating against the expulsion of the Greeks from Turkey; and taking great credit to the Government of King Otho for not having imitated this conduct. A letter from Mr. Wyse and M. Forth Rouen, the English and French Ministers, addressed to the Greek Government, has also been published. It severely rebukes M. Paikos, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, for having put forward accusations against the Turkish Government directly the reverse of the truth, as established by

strict investigation. In his letter to Nessel Bey, on the 7th March, M. Paikos complained that a corps of Albanians, 500 strong, had passed the Hellenic frontier on the 26th February, pursuing the Christian peasants near Arta. The truth is, that Lieutenant-Colonel Skilodimos, commanding a battalion of Greek light troops, joined Karaiskakis in a conflict under the citadel of Arta, and therefore on Turkish territory. The note asks who are the authors of this perversion of facts? and formally protests against the violation of Turkish territory. Moreover, M. Paikos is charged with having kept from the knowledge of the Chambers and the Senate the collective note of the Four Powers destined to support the grievances set forth by Nessel Bey, and with not having transmitted any reply to the Ministers.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Berlin letters state that Russia has proposed to the Prussian Government a treaty of commerce on the most liberal basis.

The policy of the Shah of Persia appears to have become hostile to Russia. He claims the restitution of the ancient provinces, and is putting in motion an army of 50,000 men.

The Prussian War Minister Bonin, understood to be friendly to an alliance with the Western Powers, has, like M. Bunsen, resigned; and his resignation has been accepted.

Generals Jellachich and Mamula have received positive orders to enter the Herzegovina and Upper Albania immediately, should the Montenegrins cross the frontier and the Pashas demand the assistance of Austria.

The *Moniteur* of Thursday and Friday contained two decrees; the first calls out 80,000 men of the class 1853 for the army and navy; the second establishes an Imperial Guard, under the command of General de St. Jean d'Angely.

The Russian Count Lazzaroff was arrested in Paris on Friday, after having been subjected to a domiciliary visit: his papers, it is said, disclose a dangerous correspondence with St. Petersburg. He has since been released, and allowed forty-eight hours to depart from Paris.

The *Louth Advertiser* states that Admiral Hamelin, commander-in-chief of the French expeditionary fleet engaged in the Eastern war, is an Irishman by birth, and a native of the county Louth. His immediate relatives reside in the neighbourhood of Channon-rock, near Dundalk.

In round numbers, it appears that the conveyance alone of every British soldier to the seat of war costs about £100; or rather, to state it more accurately, we have to pay an average of £100 passage-money for every soldier we keep upon the roll of the expeditionary force, including the passage of horses and stores.

Within the last few days immense quantities of precious stones, sent from Constantinople to be converted into cash, have arrived in Paris, and an extraordinary depreciation in the market value of unset jewels has been the consequence. We are assured that the fall in diamonds, within the space of a single week, has been no less than 25 per cent.

During the stay of the French fleet at Deal, the mayor and magistrates presented an address to Admiral Parseval Deschenes; to which on the Tuesday they received a reply, thanking the mayor for the hearty greeting given to the French fleet, rejoicing in the happy union of the two nations in a just cause, and expressing a hope that by God's aid their efforts will be crowned with a solid and lasting peace.

It is certain (says the *Shipping Gazette*) that Sir James Graham's two last bills—the entry of Seamen's Bill and the Naval Coast Volunteers Bill—have signally failed to raise the number of seamen required for Her Majesty's service. We are informed that an officer, who has been some time employed for the purpose at the ports of the Tyne, only succeeded in raising thirteen indifferent men; and we believe a similar result has attended the efforts made at other places. We understand that one of the first-rate ships, which has lately sailed for the Baltic, had not, at the time of her departure, more than sixty thorough able seamen.

Some of our seamen in the Black Sea have had a narrow escape. At Kostendje, the *Sidon* and the *Magellan*, British and French war-steamers, cast anchor; and the French captain, longing for a little shooting, took some men with him and went ashore. Penetrating into the country, he fell in with some Russian cavalry, had a skirmish with them, killed two men, and retreated to his boat. This is from a French account; which goes on to say that the boat was stranded, and for a moment could not be got off. Fortunately, the *Magellan's* people were looking on; and, in the nick of time, they dropped first a shell and then a few round shot among the pursuing Russians. The captain and his men shoved off, and returned safely to the ship.

An agent of Lloyd's at St. Ives, Cornwall, forwarded, on Wednesday, a statement made to him by one Gaston Fouque, second mate of the French brig *Ville de Marseille*. Fouque stated that his ship had been captured, about twenty leagues from Cardiff, by a Russian frigate, which first hoisted English and afterwards French colours; and that he escaped by swimming. To test the truth of his statement, the Admiralty have sent two steamers to look after this "Russian frigate." The story turns out to be a fabrication. The *Morning Herald* says the news has reached the Admiralty that an American ship, *Grapeshot*, has captured a French merchant ship off the Land's End. The *Grapeshot* cleared out of New York, March 22nd, for St. Thomas, with 1,500 packages on board, professedly of hardware, but, more definitely speaking, 600 muskets. It was supposed that she was bound to Finland, and, failing debarkation there, the Mediterranean. This may explain the story of a Russian war frigate in the Channel.

RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES.

(Continued from Page 393)

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

The fifty-fifth annual meeting of the above institution was held in Exeter Hall, on Friday last. The Hall was quite filled. The chair was taken at six o'clock, by S. M. Peto, Esq., M.P. After singing, and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Henderson,

The CHAIRMAN, who upon rising was much applauded, spoke of that society as a practical Evangelical Alliance. If the Christian Church did not supply the educational wants of the masses, the most deleterious literature would take its place.

It is difficult to ascertain the number of injurious publications which are weekly sent forth in this country; but, from the best information that can be obtained, I believe that they approach, if not exceed, the number of 400,000 weekly, and are sent forth at the price of about one penny or three half-pence each, giving as a total issue per annum, something like 20,300,000. (Hear, hear.) Besides this large amount, we must also take into account the supply brought from France, of a character to which I cannot even refer in the present assembly, but the injurious tendency of which, I am quite sure, you will all agree with me to be most deeply lamented. (Hear, hear.) If such is actually the condition of the supply of this injurious literature, let us, for a moment, turn to what this society is doing to counteract it. We find that, during the last year, it has issued about twenty-two and a half millions of publications (cheers); and with regard to one in particular, *The Leisure Hour* (hear, hear, and cheers), the number issued is about 80,000 weekly. (Cheers.) Then, I find, that you have a monthly issue of about 30,000—that the gratuitous issue for the past year has been something like 4,000,000, of which the City Mission has distributed 1,949,000. Only imagine two million publications of this class disseminated through London! (Hear, hear.) What a blessing to reflect that such an amount of agency can be employed, and how large must be the claims of that society which must so commend itself to God and man! (Cheers.)

He then referred to the distribution of the society's publications among soldiers and sailors, which during the past year had approximated to 400,000. (Cheers.) He found, also, that the number of tracts distributed among emigrants had been something like 366,000. Mr. Peto then mentioned various instances in which the tracts of the society had been productive of much good.

The Rev. P. J. Saffery read an abstract of the report. It gave a brief sketch of the society's operations during the year, in the printing and the circulation of religious publications in various parts of the world—France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, British India, Burmah, China, Loo-Choo, the Dutch East Indies, the Australian Colonies, Madagascar, the Mauritius, the British dependencies in North America, and the West Indies. The report then proceeded to notice the various important objects in connexion with the society's home operations, as the camp at Chobham; soldiers and sailors proceeding to the East; emigration; prisoners; the issue of a new publication, entitled "The Sunday at Home;" tract distribution in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales; the large grants made to the London City Mission and kindred societies; and the formation of libraries. The total issues of publications during the year were 27,376,575, being an increase of 1,524,724. The benevolent income of the year, including the sums received for special objects, was £3,551 11s. 6d. The legacies, £2,423 6s. 6d. The grants of money, paper, and publications, for home and abroad, amounted to £11,206 14s., being an excess over the ordinary benevolent receipts of £4,166 13s. 4d. The sales have reached the sum of £60,400, showing an increase of £4,927 7s. In conclusion, the committee urged attention to the value of the Christian press in the present times, and appealed for increased public support, that they might be able to employ that press much more largely and efficiently.

Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS, M.P., moved a resolution for the adoption of the report, and rejoiced in the operations of the society. He said he scarcely expected that he should be called upon to move the first resolution at a meeting of Tractarians (laughter) though it was not a meeting of Tractarians in Belgravia. In the course of his speech he adverted to the present position of this country:—

He hoped that the time was coming when the hard necessities under which they were placed of vindicating the first principles of national freedom and international justice might be done away, not by the direct efforts of the Peace Society, but by the spread of those true principles of peace, the first effect of which is to moderate the passions which lead necessarily to war, and, by putting an end to the cause of it, put an end also to war itself. (Cheers.) He could not help thinking, that not one of that large assembly, which, amid the melancholy incidents of war during the next few months or years—and he trusted that they would be but few, indeed—would, for the purpose of alleviating many of those reflections, recall the facts which had been mentioned in that Report, and find some encouragement in those facts; thus entertaining the belief, that this war, so reluctantly undertaken and pursued, might be overruled, by the Highest Power and Wisdom, for the accomplishment of a great purpose; and that the people of this country would find their truest revenge over the foes who had made an aggression upon our allies, not in destroying their ships and their fleets—not in bombarding their ports and their towns—not in destroying the innocent inhabitants of those opposing countries—but in circulating among them those principles which, when they are once developed, would put an end, even in Russia itself, to a system of grievous cruelty and superstitious idolatry, more degrading even than that which had its centre in old Rome. (Loud cheers.)

After reviewing the operations of the society in various parts of the world, he said that while, in "another place," as they were accustomed to say, they were voting away not less than £6,000,000 at a time for this war, it was a comfort for him to remember that there

was a religious tract in the pocket of every soldier, and that vast numbers besides had been sent forth with their armies.

The Rev. OCTAVIUS WINSLOW, D.D., seconded the resolution, which was supported by the Rev. Dr. ARCHER, who rejoiced in the spirit of concord which this society was the means of promoting among Christians; enlarged upon the power of the press for good or for ill; and was pleased to find that the society was endeavouring to sanctify it.

Two streams were rushing on, the one stream starts from the fountain of science and imagination, and the other from "the brook that flows fast by the oracle of God," and they would flow on side by side until the time arrived when the waters of both streams would mingle; but the Wood of the Cross being thrown in would effectually heal all its deleterious influences, and sanctify, vivify, and bless. (Cheers.)

They wanted compositions in the style of composition and manner of the age.

What this was, however, it was difficult to say. (A laugh.) One great feature of the age, however, was intensity. (Hear, hear.) Everybody was trying to write, and, he was sorry to say, to preach, too, in some cases, in what they call the intense-school style—(laughter)—very unintelligible, very elaborate, very mystical, and often exhibiting the froth of the oracle without the inspiration. (Loud cheers.) Now, what was required in the tracts of this society was just this—that they be written in simple, manly, English tone and feeling; in a style which would exist long after Carlyleisms, and Emerson and Theodore Parker styles had passed away, and been forgotten, shining forth in its pure simplicity, sparkling as dew drops in the beams of the morning. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. C. MILLER, of Birmingham, moved:—

That the entire insufficiency of the society's funds fully to meet the wants of our country and its colonies, and of heathen and unenlightened nations, is a loud call to the Christian public promptly and liberally to respond to the society's appeal for an enlarged amount of permanent contributions, both from the auxiliaries and subscribers; and particularly as it appears that the grants for the year, without any charge for the expenses connected with them, have exceeded by upwards of £4,000 the whole amount of contributions received.

He thought the fact mentioned in the resolution justified the conclusion that the society was not adequately supported by the Christian public, and that the deficiency ought to be made up. Much interest in its operations had been excited in Birmingham, where a depot had been opened in the town, in connexion with the Bible Society's agency, for the sale of the society's publications. As a clergyman, labouring in a large manufacturing town, and having paid much attention to the wants and habits of the working-classes, he tendered his cordial thanks to the committee of the Tract Society for that invaluable book, the *Leisure Hour*. (Cheers.) It was precisely that class of publications which we must desiderate at the present day. He thought that there had been too great a profuseness in tract distribution; and something was needed, therefore, which should have the effect of interesting the people in the concerns of this world, not based on religious principles; not a publication exclusively spiritual, but having to do with common things. (Hear, hear.) He earnestly hoped that the committee of the society would not be deterred by the opinions of men of narrow and mistaken views, from pressing on in the path they were now treading. (Hear, hear.) He did not desire to bring the Gospel down to the age, but the age up to the Gospel.

The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. J. Ball, M.P., the Rev. E. Bickersteth, the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel (who enlarged upon the claims of China), the Rev. E. Jukes, the Rev. S. R. Ward, and the Rev. W. M. Wright, chaplain to the Royal Arsenal of Woolwich. The collection amounted to £51 1s. 9d.

Foreign and Colonial News.

GOLD AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The principal topic of interest at the Cape is the newly discovered gold diggings, with respect to which the only question was as to whether they will prove to be rich enough to repay the trouble of research. This a few weeks will determine. According to the local papers copper has been discovered and is easily procurable from the surface, and in wagon loads. If we add to these recommendations of the diggings the number of precious stones and the platina that are likewise to be obtained there, that country which has been so lately discarded as worthless may yet prove to be richer than any other appendage of Her Majesty's possessions.

The following eight gentlemen have been elected members of the Legislative Council of the Cape of Good Hope for the western districts, viz.:—Howson Edwards Rutherford, Francis William Reitz, Joseph Barry, John Hendrik Wicht, John Bardwell Ebdon, Dirk Gysbert van Breda, Jan de Wet, LL.D., Henry Thomas Vigne; and the following seven for the eastern districts, viz.:—Sir Andreas Stockenström, Robert Godlonton, George Wood, Henry Blaine, Willem Simon Gregorius Metelerkamp, William Fleming, Gideon Daniel Joubert.

The Cape Parliament will meet at Cape Town between the 23rd and 30th of June.

AMERICA.

Telegraphic accounts from Washington of the 24th ult. state that the new Nebraska Bill had been abandoned, after creating much excitement. The Gadsden Treaty Bill was expected to be disposed of on the 25th. No accounts have been received in the United States of the missing steamer, *City of Glasgow*.

Advices from Mexico state that Santa Anna and Alvarez had ceased hostilities, the former having made concessions to the latter.

It is believed at Washington that the Captain-General of Cuba has in his possession a Royal decree, authorising him, at any moment he may deem proper, to emancipate all the slaves in the island.

Accounts from Nova Scotia state that the Provincial Legislature, previous to its adjournment, had adopted addresses to the Queen, expressive of its warm attachment to the British Crown, and pledging the militia to guard the province and protect the public works from attack. The Lieutenant-Governor is authorized to call out the militia in case of necessity.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Prussians have been making experiments with egg-shaped cast-iron bullets for muskets.

The Archbishop of Mexico has, it is said, prohibited the introduction of Protestant Bibles into that republic.

In the kingdom of Poland there are understood to be about 800 English residing, while the French there are no less than 2,000.

The Pope is in ill-health. His chest is considered to be affected, and the enormous enlargement of his person reveals a dropsical tendency.

The people of Sydney have subscribed \$2,000 for the erection of a statue to Mr. Wentworth, to commemorate his exertions in procuring a constitution for the colony.

A project for lighting the city of Mexico with gas is about being commenced, and will be followed by other cities of the republic. Calcutta is also to be similarly illuminated.

Sir Hamilton Seymour, who is now in Paris, has been greatly feted. The Emperor asked him to dinner almost immediately on his arrival, and conversed with him privately for a long time.

There was a smart but very brief shock of earthquake at Kingston on the 1st of April; and the comet was visible on the 2nd. The cholera was on the wane, and had become sporadic.

Louis Napoleon now moves fearlessly about the capital on foot. One day last week, he escorted the Empress to "the panorama of the battle of the Pyramids," and sent her back to the Tuileries from the Hotel des Invalides, in the carriage; while he walked to the dome and Cour Vauban, and thence to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; subsequently he walked to the works in the Place de la Concorde and the works of the Louvre.

Advices from Kingston, Jamaica to the 10th April, have been received. By a majority of one, the Legislative Council had passed the Responsible Government Bill; thus accepting the provision agreed to by the House of Assembly for a judicial establishment under the civil list; nevertheless, they passed the bill under protest. Within half an hour after its passing the Council, Sir Henry Barkly gave the assent of the Crown.

The Emperor of the French has decided that considerable changes shall be effected in the Champs Elysées. A large portion of the present planted ground is to be built on, which act will give a profit of thirty-five millions of francs, it is calculated, to the city of Paris. A vast opening, surrounded by lofty houses, is to be made in front of the Exhibition Palace, and ornamented with fountains and statues. It is also said that four fountains are to be established on the Place de la Concorde, in place of two; and that the obelisk of Luxor is to be transported to the court of the Louvre.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Conventual Institutions, against interference with, 13.

in favour of, 1.

County Courts, for extension of, 1.

Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 6.

Declarations Bill, in favour of, 4.

Dog-Carts, for prohibition of, 4.

Education (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 329.

against, 240.

for alteration of, 66.

Elective Franchise, for extension of, 1.

Fire Insurance Duty, for repeal of, 3.

Friendly Societies Bill, against, 8.

Gaols, against endowment of British Chaplains in, 13.

Reformatory Institutions, in favour of, 3.

Maynooth Grant, for discontinuance of, 3.

Medical Practitioners Bill, in favour of, 2.

against, 30.

for alteration of, 3.

Paper Duty, for repeal of, 1.

Public Houses, against opening on Sunday, 137.

in favour of, 1.

Universities, for admission without distinction of creed, 43.

Church Rates, for abolition of, 1.

Oaths Bill, against, 4.

Ocean Penny Postage, in favour of, 5.

Settlement and Removal Bill, in favour of, 2.

against, 2.

Jews, for admission to Parliament of, 1.

Newspaper Stamps, for abolition of, 1.

Preston Borough, for inquiry into, 17.

Railway, &c., Bill, against, 1.

in favour of, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Exchequer Bills (£16,024,100) Bill.

Industrial and Provident Societies Bill.

Public Statutes Bill.

Gaming Houses Bill.

Public Libraries Bill.

Chimney Sweepers Bill.

Manning the Navy Bill.

Navy Pay, &c., Bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Mortmain Bill.

Militia Bill.

Exchequer Bills (£16,024,100) Bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Railway and Canal Traffic Regulation Bill.

Oxford University Bill.

Boundary Survey (Ireland) Bill.

Exchequer Bills (£16,024,100) Bill.

Militia Bill.

County Court Extension Act Amendment Bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME.

Dublin Port Bill.

County Court Extension Act Amendment Bill.

Boundary Survey (Ireland) Bill.

DEBATES.

CRIMINAL CONVERSATION.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, Mr. BOWYER moved the second reading of the Criminal Conversation Bill, which abolished damages to be paid to the husband in actions for criminal conversation, and substituted in lieu a fine to the Crown by way of punishment. Mr. COLLIER pointed out anomalies in the bill, which, he said, left it doubtful whether the offence was criminal or not, and mixed up together criminal and civil proceedings; and he moved that the second reading be on that day six months. Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. W. D. SEYMOUR, and Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD, supported the bill; while Mr. WHITESIDE, Mr. PHINN, and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, agreed with Mr. COLLIER, deprecating the system of bit by bit legislation, when the whole subject requires a comprehensive reform. On a division, the bill was thrown out, by 121 to 49.

DECLARATIONS BILL.

Mr. PELLATT moved the second reading of the Declarations Bill, enabling persons who feel conscientious scruples to make a declaration in lieu of an oath. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL objected to the bill, that it would lead to great abuses; as many persons who have a sense of the religious sanction of an oath, are not sufficiently alive to the moral obligations of a declaration. There is before the other House of Parliament a bill which he hoped soon to bring before the House of Commons, affording considerable relief to witnesses in this particular. He proposed, that if a judge before whom a person gives evidence is satisfied that the person objecting really entertains conscientious scruples against taking an oath, he should be allowed to make a declaration. Mr. FITZROY moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. This was carried by 136 to 37, and the bill was consequently thrown out.

CARLISLE CANONRIES BILL.

This bill proposed to appropriate the income of one of the four canonries of Carlisle Cathedral in augmentation of the incumbencies of that city. Mr. FERGUSON moved the second reading. Mr. GOULBURN expressed his surprise that the House should have sanctioned the first reading of such a measure. Other incumbents, like those of Carlisle, are poorly remunerated. Twelve years ago, the House decided that there should be four canonries in each cathedral, and would they now reopen the question? Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS and Mr. HOWARD supported the bill; while it was opposed by Mr. R. PHILLIMORE, the Marquis of BLANDFORD, and Mr. COWPER. Mr. FERGUSON divided the House, and the second reading was negatived by 87 to 79.

THE CHAMBER'S COMMITTEE.

The debate on the appointment of the committee on Conventual and Monastic Establishments, which has so long been hanging over the House, was resumed on Wednesday. Mr. DIGBY SEYMOUR spoke against the appointment of the committee as unnecessary. Mr. HORSMAN also deprecated any further proceedings; and Mr. NEWDEGATE had just begun a long sentence, when the SPEAKER interrupted him and closed the debate, by an intimation that it was within a quarter of six o'clock; and by one of the standing orders the matter is adjourned till next Wednesday.

THE RAILWAY BILL.

On the motion to go into committee on this bill *pro forma*, on Thursday, some objection was made. The Marquis of CHANDOS did not object, as there was now no substantial difference between the Board of Trade and the Railway Companies. When the question that the speaker leave the chair was put, Mr. RICARDO, on the ground that there had been no time to consider the bill, moved an adjournment of the debate. In this he was vigorously supported by Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE, who attacked the Government for yielding to the railway interest. He considered the announcement of Lord Chandos, that the bill is satisfactory to the railway interest, as a proof that it was a bad bill for the public. He would like to see a return of the members of the House who are in receipt of salaries from the railway interest. It used to be a rule that no member should vote on a question in which he had a pecuniary interest, and it would be well to prevent chairmen and directors, with their £2,000 and £1,500 a year, from voting on railway questions.

This was followed by a desultory discussion. Mr. BRIGHT said there never was an interest of such magnitude which was so little united for selfish purposes in that House as the railway interest. Mr. BOUVIER pointed out that many private bills, containing clauses similar to those in the Railway Bill, were hung up waiting the result of the discussion. Mr. HENLEY objected to the adjournment of the debate. Put to the vote, the motion for the adjournment was negatived by 261 to 40.

When the motion that the Speaker leave the chair was again put, Mr. EVELYN DENISON renewed the discussion, by complaining, mainly, that all mention of amalgamation had been withdrawn from the bill, and that railway legislation generally is in a very imperfect state. The drift of the discussion which intervened before Mr. Cardwell was permitted to make his statement was one of complaint. Mr. HUME and Mr. T. W. EGERTON preferred the original bill, as a better protection to the public. Mr. MANGLES defended the Railway Companies; asserting that they had been greater sufferers than the public by the adoption of that system of competition to which they now desired to add regulation. Mr. WILKINSON took an opposite view. Mr. HENLEY saw little difference between the present and the original bill; but, if anything, it opened more pits for the public to fall into. Who would go to law with the great companies, to get a construction put upon such terms as "reasonable facilities," and "unreasonable delay"? Mr. JAMES MACGREGOR and Mr. WHITESIDE objected to the bill; and Mr. ATHERTON supported it.

Mr. CARDWELL explained its main provisions; prefacing his statement, which was very meagre, by answering some of the objections put forward in debate. The amalgamation clause had been struck out, because it was thought that it could not properly be dealt with by statute; for the first private bill which "dissented" from such an act would repeal it altogether. Amalgamation had, therefore, been dealt with by resolutions. Mr. HENLEY had objected to the word "reasonable"; now, the object of part of the bill was to apply the old law of common carriers to the altered state of things upon railways. That law imposed a peremptory obligation on the common carrier, and "reasonable" was the word legally adopted to define the measure of obligation. The bill defines what are the duties which the companies owe to the public in respect to the services to be rendered upon their lines, and obliges them to consult each other in order that their arrangements may be so made that the public may pass as easily from one line to another as along each separate railway. Voluntary arbitration and representations from the Board of Trade have been found of no effect, and compulsory power was found to be necessary. The bill therefore declares, if any person be aggrieved, or if the Attorney-General should be instructed on behalf of the Crown, he should apply to a court of law for remedy. The application was to be in the simplest and most summary form; if the facts were not disputed, there would be immediate decision; if they were disputed, there was a power of reference to such engineer, barrister, or other person, as the court should think fit to appoint, on whose report it might act.

The House went into committee, and the bill was committed *pro forma*.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY BILL.

The committee on this bill was resumed on Thursday; and clause 6 was further considered. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON proposed to insert words to the effect that the seventh Professor should be chosen from among the Professors of Theology. Mr. GLADSTONE objected, and the amendment was negatived without a division.

The last sentence of the clause, "together with six members of Convocation of not less than five years' standing, elected by the Congregation," was next considered. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON proposed as an amendment, to substitute the word "Convocation" for the word "Congregation." The establishment of a Congregation would practically throw power into the hands of the prevailing party, set aside Convocation, and materially affect the interests of the University. The University ought not to be exposed to party feeling.

This amendment occasioned considerable debate. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, defending the clause, said that if the persons engaged in teaching at Oxford were so imbued with party feeling as they were described to be by Mr. Henley and Sir John Pakington, rather than intrust them with the education of youth, it would be better to abolish the University altogether. Such is not a fair description of the teachers of Oxford. It would be a great misfortune if persons could be prejudiced by circular letters, and brought up from Cornwall, Northumberland, and other counties, to vote against all improvements. Mr. HENLEY contended, that, under the bill, the young men resident at Oxford might give an impetus to peculiar principles; which, if the amendment were adopted, the great body of the University would check. The Congregation would be a narrow oligarchy. The amendment was further supported by Mr. NEWDEGATE, Lord ROBERT CEIL, Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER, Mr. HILDYARD, and Mr. VANSITTART; and opposed by Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. GLADSTONE, and Mr. R. PHILLIMORE.

In the course of the debate, Mr. GLADSTONE vigorously defended the residents of the University from the disparaging attack of Mr. Henley, who had called them young, and said they had a tendency to run from one extreme to another, now Tractarian now Rationalistic. Mr. HENLEY, rising with heat, said that Mr. Gladstone might misrepresent him as much as he pleased: no doubt, he knew best whether there was a Tractarian tendency in the University. What he had really said was, that he did not believe the Rationalistic tendency existed to such an extent as Mr. Horsman supposed. Mr. GLADSTONE retorted. He considered he might, if he chose, appeal to the Speaker against the angry taunts of Mr. Henley, who had no right to tell any member he might misrepresent him as he pleased; thus imputing to another wilful misrepresentation. Mr. Gladstone trusted he need not defend himself from such an imputation. He vindicated the resident body at great length; and showed that when the members of Convocation came from a distance to vote, it was not the quiet and sober-minded who did so, but those imbued with strong party and political feelings.

The committee went to a division, and the amendment was negatived by 192 to 176. The clause was then agreed to.

Clause 9,—enacting that the Hebdomadal Council might appoint Committees,—was struck out as unnecessary. Clause 10 was agreed to. The Chairman reported progress, and the House resumed.

BOMBARDMENT OF ODESSA.

In the House of Lords, on Friday, in reply to a question from the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, the Earl of CLARENDON read the following telegraphic despatch sent to the Admiralty by Mr. Fonblanque, the British Consul at Belgrade. The despatch is dated the 4th of May, at a quarter to seven o'clock in the afternoon:—

Admiral Dundas announces, through Her Majesty's consul at Varna, that a division of steamboats of the combined squadrons destroyed, on the 22nd of April, the Imperial mole and the Russian ships at Odessa. The mole of the quarantine, the foreign ships, and the city itself, have not been injured, great care having been taken with respect to private and neutral property. The Pasha of

Belgrade stated yesterday that the great powder magazine had been blown up, that the land batteries had been entirely destroyed, and that the loss which had been sustained by the allied fleets did not exceed eight men killed and eighteen wounded.

"I am further informed my lords," said the Earl of Clarendon, "that the fleets, immediately after the attack on Odessa, sailed towards Sebastopol,"—a statement which was received with much cheering.

In the House of Commons, Sir JAMES GRAHAM made a similar statement in reply to a question from Mr. FRENCH.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

On Friday, the House of Commons went into Committee of Supply on the Supplementary Estimates for the Navy, Army, and Ordnance.

With a brief preface, Sir JAMES GRAHAM first brought forward the Supplementary Navy Estimates; entering at once into details. The first vote was for an additional sum of £461,700 on account of the wages of seamen and marines: the additional number proposed to be raised is 5,000 men. Within a month from the commencement of the war, 11,000 men were added to the Navy. This was partly effected by the use which the Government made of the power of the Executive in calling out the Coast Guard. That force supplied 2,500 men; the remaining 8,500 have been raised by voluntary enrolment since the 1st of March. At present, 1,000 men have been raised in excess of the number voted by the House; and Government therefore will have to raise 4,000 to make up the number required. The Black Sea and Baltic fleets have been manned without diminishing the force elsewhere—indeed, the naval force in some of the most distant stations is augmented; but the safety and dignity of the country require a reserve, and 5,000 is not an extravagant estimate. Another item was £50,000 for additional victualling stores; an expense caused by the rise in price of the prime articles of food, consequent upon the prohibition put upon the export of wheat by the Emperor of Russia and the King of Naples. An additional £5,000 is needed for the increase in the establishments at Whitehall and Somerset House. The pressure on the clerks at present is overwhelming. Under the head of naval stores, there is a charge of £697,331, of which £160,000 is for the purchase of coal and other fuel; £252,674 for purchase and repair of steam machinery; and £244,657 for purchase of steam-vessels, gun-boats, &c. It is desirable that the reserve force should have the advantage of steam power; small vessels are needed in the Baltic; and some expenditure has been incurred in finishing the vessels built for the Russian Government but seized on behalf of the Queen. The total of all the items immediately connected with the effective force of the Navy is £1,457,031.

An item connected with the Army rather than the Navy is one of £3,096,700; of which £2,610,200 is for freight of transports on monthly pay, including steam-vessels, or for purchase of the same. Up to this time, 25,000 men have left the shores of England, and 2,500 horses. The distance to which the forces have been sent, the shortness of the time allowed for preparation, and the competition for transports, have caused great expense. The sum in the estimate covers the hire of eight new steam-vessels, and eighty-six sailing-transports, seventy-five of which were freighted with cavalry. Steam-ships, in consequence of the want of proper height between decks, and also of the space occupied by the machinery, are not available for cavalry transport, unless they are propelled by screw, and the height between decks is at least seven feet six inches. Another item is £108,000 for the freight of ships hired for the conveyance of troops, &c., including rations: Government has taken up eighteen steam-vessels and eighty-six sailing-transports for the entire year, in order that the whole force of 27,000 men should have ready means of conveyance from place to place.

In the course of the discursive debate that followed this statement, Sir James bore testimony to the services of Admiral Dundas. He knew not one instance during the last twelve months of trial to which Admiral Dundas had been exposed—having to bear with circumstances of great difficulty—in which he had not ably, honestly, and, as the Government thought, most creditably fulfilled his orders. If there are any accusations to be made, Government are ready to meet them; if there is any blame, it attaches to the Government. Mr. STAFFORD spoke on the same point. Admiral Dundas had rendered Besika Bay for ever memorable; for he had shown how, by good management, two rival but now friendly fleets could ride side by side in perfect amity. Last summer Mr. Stafford passed some time in the flag-ship of Admiral Dundas, and he could cordially testify to the good fellowship of the combined fleets, and the admirable discipline of our own.

The Supplemental Estimates for the Army were proposed by Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT. He asked for an additional force of 14,799 men; which would make a total increase of 40,000, thus raising the army from 102,000 to 142,000 men. Of course, this addition required an increase of officers, and that has led Government to consider the present organization of the regiments. At present there are seven or eight varieties of regimental establishments in the army: it is proposed to adopt a homogeneous system. Every regiment will be augmented to twelve companies; eight for active service, and four as a reserve at home. The reserve will meet the requirements of the service as to officers, and enable the army to be contracted or expanded according to circumstances. It is proposed to raise the regiments which have gone out from 850 to 1,000 men; which will give 800 fighting men to each regiment. The total charge of the army is now £7,167,486; an increase of £1,132,470 over the estimate of last year.

Mr. MONSELL briefly proposed the Supplemental Estimates for the Ordnance, the total of which is £742,132; a sum distributed over a number of items for increasing the general efficiency of the department.

All the votes proposed, amounting for the three services to £5,595,863, passed without opposition.

Some subjects of dispute arose during the debate on the Navy Estimates. Mr. HENRY BAILLIE accused the Government of making political appointments in the navy. Mr. OSBORNE said, that, on the contrary, the regulations, which ignore politics, are strictly carried out: the Admiralty would be happy to appoint the son of Mr. Baillie himself.

Mr. COBDEN said he should like to see England announce to all the world, that henceforth we should make no seizures of merchant vessels belonging to the enemy, unless they were caught while attempting to break the blockade. There was one other point connected with the conduct of the war to which he desired to allude for a moment:—

It could not have escaped the attention of honourable gentlemen, that when the First Lord of the Admiralty communicated to the House the intelligence which had been received from Odessa, there was a unanimous expression of gratification at the announcement that no injury had been done to private houses. (Hear, hear.) It seemed that no attempt was made to bombard the town of Odessa. That was what they must all have expected from Admiral Dundas, and he hoped that the same rule would be acted upon elsewhere. Let it be understood that no attempt to bombard or injure peaceful, commercial, and unfortified towns, would meet the approbation of the House and the country. He might here quote the authority of the Duke of Wellington. They all knew that when he carried on his campaigns in Spain he never would allow a town to be bombarded even when he had to capture it. He suffered great losses frequently by not bombarding towns, but he would not be a party to the destruction of an unarmed city; it was gratifying to find that we had begun the present war in the same wise manner. With regard to the war itself, it would differ from all that had gone before if it answered in its end the purposes of its beginning. Most likely, before many months had elapsed, the original object and motives of the war might be merged in something quite different; but, at all events, it would always be something to glory in if we could say that in this war we had done a little for the cause of civilisation, and had contributed to the interests of humanity. (Hear.)

Lord JOHN RUSSELL observed, in reply, that we must consider whether, if Mr. Cobden's suggestion were adopted, we should not deprive ourselves—whether belligerents would not be deprived of the means of bringing war to a close—whether we should not be more likely to have protracted wars if the inconvenience arising from wars were limited.

When a great number of classes in the country feel no pressure from war, they will have no desire to put an end to it; for it is on account of those evils and inconveniences that men feel desirous to put an end to that unfortunate state of things. The considerations are many, but I only mention one or two. We prohibit contraband of war. We do not allow pistols, swords, or cannons to be carried to the port of a belligerent; but if we are allowing merchant ships, with their crews, to cross the seas, we are keeping up the nursery of seamen of that country with which we are at war (hear), and enabling them to fit out fleets with that warlike store which is the most useful and powerful of any store, namely, the men who are able to equip and fight those ships. (Hear.) I think we have gone as far as is prudent to mitigate the evils of war. If we go beyond what we have at present done, instead of bringing on peace, which is the object of all legitimate war, we may produce a chronic state of war, which would be a great evil to Europe and to the world. (Cheers.)

Of the relations of Austria to the allies, his lordship said:—

Let me say that, although the Government of Austria has not taken that part which I should have wished, of interfering in the very commencement of these transactions in putting herself by our side in order to enforce the views we have entertained on this subject, the feelings of Austria on this subject are quite in accordance with those of England and France. They have been defined in a protocol, in which those sentiments are declared; and my belief is, that if the aggression of Russia should be pushed to the extent to attempt the destruction of Turkey, that Austria will appear in arms, in order to resist her.

Catching hold of a stray expression of Sir James Graham, that no direct condemnation of the policy of Government had been called for, Mr. DISRAELI hung a speech upon it; repeating his old favourite saw, that there would have been no war if Lord Aberdeen had not been in power—that the war is entirely to be attributed to "the character, career, and conduct of the Prime Minister;" and, with much iteration, censuring Mr. Gladstone for misleading the House by a premature financial statement before the end of the financial year. From these charges Lord JOHN RUSSELL vindicated the Ministry, with a quiet incidental sarcasm as to what might have happened if Lord Derby had continued to be Premier and Mr. Disraeli Minister of Finance.

Mr. DAUMOND strongly deprecated the license of the press in commenting upon the proceedings of our commanders and admirals.

The Duke of Wellington used to say, that nothing contented this country so much, or made the people so happy, as a good butcher's blow; that they thought unless their generals or admirals gained a battle by a mass of slaughter nothing was done, and that they had not money's worth for their money. (Hear.) You ought to let naval and military men have more of your confidence. I dislike the interference of diplomatic men. I think, when the first cannon is loaded, diplomacy should cease. If blame is to be imputed, it ought to fall upon the Government. I do not object to these attacks upon Admiral Dundas because he is absent—I object to them because he is a commander, and because they come from men who are incompetent to give an opinion; for it is not because a man has a seat in this House that he is entitled to sit in judgment on naval and military operations; and I object to them most of all, because, in case of blame, it is to the Government we must look, and not to the officer. (Hear.)

The debate was wound up by a panegyric from Colonel SIBTHORP on the energy of Government, and especially on Lord Palmerston, for the energy, deter-

mination, and perseverance he had displayed in the organization of the militia force.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, the House having resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in moving the financial resolutions of which he had given notice, reminded the committee that in February last he had stated at the time that, in the event of the calamity of war, it would be necessary for him again to appeal to the House for an increase of our resources. That office he had now to discharge; but, before he addressed himself to this duty, he was bound, he said, to advert to an accusation, made within these walls and elsewhere, that not only was the Government liable to great discredit for the manner in which they had dealt with the finances of the country, but that he (Mr. Gladstone) was unfit to be entrusted with the duties of that department. It had been stated that there had been a gross mismanagement of the unfunded debt; that, in the spring of last year, the interest of Exchequer-bills had been rashly lowered, causing a violent reaction, and that the rate of interest was now unusually low, the result having been a loss to the country. This charge, he observed, was a serious one, since the unfunded debt was a great resource in the time of war. The operation was not hastily or thoughtlessly made, but deliberately; it was founded upon two principles—first, that the public were entitled to borrow money on the best terms; second, that in order that the unfunded debt might be carried to the full height of its power in difficult times, it ought to be got within narrow limits in easy times. Mr. Gladstone then entered into copious details, in order to show the soundness of the principles upon which the operation upon the interest of the unfunded debt had been made, and that a gain, not a loss, had been the result. He next noticed a second series of accusations brought against him with reference to the abortive scheme for discharging or converting a portion of the funded debt—namely, that, in spite of adverse times and the warnings of the wise, a scheme had been attempted by the Government resulting in a loss, which was not to be attributed to changes of circumstances, the approach of war, or the state of the harvest, but to the precipitancy of the measure. He regretted, he confessed, that the scheme had been brought forward, but not because the result had been a pecuniary loss, for that had not been the result; and he proceeded to argue, from the amount of bullion in the Bank, and the state of the circumstances, that the measure, tested by those circumstances, was expedient and wise. The only real objection to the scheme, he observed, was the alleged inconvenience of withdrawing from the Exchequer a large amount of money—namely, £3,000,000—to liquidate the demands of the holders of paid-off stock. Around this point, he continued, a mass of misapprehension had gathered. The public had been led to believe that a large amount of money had been demanded by the Government from the Bank of England; that these demands had been made in violation of the spirit of an agreement between the Government and the Bank in 1844; that they had been made without due notice given to the Bank; and that the advances by the Bank had been made with great detriment to trade, and at a very low rate of interest. He examined successively, and repelled, each of these charges, showing that the maximum advances by the Bank to the 12th of April amounted to only £1,350,000, out of which £830,000 was due to the rapid growth of the charges connected with the expedition to the East; that the average debt of the Government to the Bank had been £900,000, and that that debt was now extinct. In the course of his examination he adverted to the subject of deficiency bills, which he thought had been the chief source of these delusions. Mr. Gladstone then developed the views of the Government respecting the existing state of the finances. The statement he had made on the 6th of March showed that, with the additional income-tax, the total revenue would be £56,656,000, and the expenditure £56,189,000, leaving a surplus of £467,000. Since then new estimates had been framed for the navy, the army, the ordnance, and the militia, which left an amount to be provided for of £6,000,000. Some provision must be made besides for unknown charges; he put down for this a sum of £250,000 (in addition to £1,250,000 already estimated under this head), for which sum he should ask a vote of credit, applicable to services which might arise in the course of the war. The result was, that the amount for which he asked the committee to provide, in addition to the sums already granted, was £6,850,000; and the conviction of the Government was, that this amount ought to be provided by an addition to the taxation of the country. They proposed to execute the intention they had formed in case of a further demand, namely, to repeat the income-tax operation already made, and to double the tax, asking the committee to grant this augmentation for the period of the war. The produce of this tax would provide for two-thirds of the expenditure; and then came a grave question—how the remainder was to be provided for? Although aware of the value of the income-tax for the purpose of war, the Government were not inclined to push it at once to an extreme point, nor was there any other direct tax to which they were disposed to have recourse. With respect to indirect taxes, they did not intend to alter the rate of postage, to re-impose repealed duties, or to meddle with the duties on tea or tobacco; and, in resorting to articles of consumption, they selected those in which the taxes would least interfere with trade or innocent enjoyment, and would make the smallest deductions from the comforts of the people. First, they proposed to augment the duty on spirits in Scotland 1s. per gallon, and on spirits in Ireland 8d. per gallon; the estimated gain was £450,000. In the next place, they proposed to classify and readjust the sugar duties, which would involve no present increase

of duty, but would add to the duties that would be otherwise payable after the 5th of July from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. The gain upon this modification of the sugar duties would be £700,000. These three sums amounted to £4,400,000, leaving still £2,450,000 to be provided for to meet the additional charge of £6,850,000. There was therefore yet another step to be made, and the Government proposed to make that step by the augmentation of the duty on malt, being convinced that, in combination with the increase of the spirit duties, and the modification of the sugar duties, it was the fairest mode of giving effect to the principle upon which they had determined to act—namely, that this war having been undertaken, not for the benefit of any particular class, but with a view to national interests and the national honour, the charge ought to be fairly distributed among the different classes of the community. In increasing the malt duty from 2s. 9d. to 4s., the rate would be still lower than in 1801, much lower than in 1802, and less than half of what it was during the war from 1804 to 1816. The net receipt from this additional duty (deducting 5 per cent. for diminution of consumption) would be £2,450,000, and, adding this to £4,400,000, the total would be the sum he asked the committee to vote—namely, £6,850,000. The gross amount of taxes asked during the present year was £10,157,000; and, setting against this sum £1,474,000 of repealed taxes, the real augmentation of the public burdens in the present year would be £8,683,000, two-thirds of which would be raised by a single direct tax upon the wealthier classes, and the remaining one-third by indirect taxation, affecting the whole consuming population, comprehending all classes. The Government proposed that the income-tax and the malt duty should be granted for the term of the war; the spirit duty without limitation, as a permanent duty; and, with regard to the sugar duties, they would require particular consideration hereafter, but it was proposed that these should be war duties. There was another point. Out of the £8,150,000, the produce of the additional taxes, he could not expect to receive before the 5th of April, 1855, more than £2,840,000; so that he should be in arrear at that date £4,010,000, and this sum the Government, in order to have a command of cash, ought to have the means of raising *ad interim*, and the proper mode was by temporary securities, which might be in the form of Exchequer-bills and Exchequer-bonds; and the right hon. gentleman explained in much detail the course which the Government proposed to pursue with reference to the issue of these temporary securities. He concluded by moving certain resolutions.

Some discussion followed. Mr. DISRAELI observed that the scheme required much consideration, and he objected to proceeding further with the resolutions that evening. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER suggested obvious reasons why the resolutions respecting spirits, malt, and sugar, should be passed immediately. Mr. BAILL asked the committee to pause before consenting to such a considerable increase in the duty on malt as had been proposed. (Hear, and a laugh.) He had hoped, by lowering the duty, to gain a moral advantage, by preventing people from going to beer-houses; and he could not but think that the proposition to raise the duty would be hurtful both to the farmer and to the morality of the community at large. Mr. BENTINCK regarded the proposition to increase the malt duty as one of the most unjust and monstrous propositions that had ever been made to the House. ("Hear, hear," from the Opposition benches.) Mr. SPOONER thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer ought to raise a loan. (A cry of "Oh!") It was easy to say "Oh," but the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be compelled to do it, and under much worse circumstances. (Hear, hear.) After a brief discussion, these resolutions were agreed to. Upon the resolution authorising the issue of Exchequer-bonds, Mr. DISRAELI objected, that there was no immediate necessity for adopting this resolution, which must lead to a long discussion, at that moment, and moved that this and the resolution regarding the income-tax should be postponed. Mr. HUME suggested that there was some irregularity in the contract respecting Exchequer-bonds, both in the mode of making it and the entering into it at all without the sanction of that House. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER justified the course adopted; and, in reply to Mr. T. BARING, explained the present condition of the contract. Ultimately, the amendment was withdrawn, the resolution was agreed to, and, with the other resolutions, ordered to be reported to the House.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. ADDERLEY renewed his question, as to whether Government would bring in a bill to encourage voluntarily-established industrial reformatories for criminal children? Lord PALMERSTON replied, that he had considered Mr. Adderley's bill, and thought the general principle exceedingly good; and that, without pledging himself to details, in the course of the session he would introduce a bill founded on that principle.

In reply to Sir JOHN WALSH, Sir JAMES GRAHAM said, his statement was, that 2,259 horses had, at different times, been sent from this country on their way to Turkey. A letter he had that day received from Lord Raglan, at Malta, stated that the first portion of the horse-transports had safely arrived, without loss; and the horses would be expedited to Turkey by steamers. Government, he further said, has taken up the steamer *Himalaya*, to carry 500 horses to Turkey, as an experiment.

In reply to Mr. EWART, Sir JAMES GRAHAM said it has been ascertained that excellent sea-borne coal could be obtained at Ezakli, on the southern coast of the Euxine, between Constantinople and Trebizond; that a British officer has been sent to make an inspection and pay immediate attention to the working of the mines; and that he confidently expects both the British and French fleets would be able to obtain all

the coal they will want from the coast of the Black Sea.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in reply to Sir G. PRECHELL, stated that the Government of Spain had pressed certain decrees for the strict observance of the treaties with this country relative to the slave-trade, which were of a very satisfactory nature, and they would provide to a great extent for the prevention of the trade in Cuba.

In reply to Sir B. HALL, Lord PALMERSTON stated that he hoped to be able to lay the report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the corporation of the City of London upon the table of the House in the course of next week.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in answer to an inquiry by Mr. Labouchere, stated, that the arrangement with regard to the civil service required a good deal of attention, and he was of opinion that there would be no prospect, if a bill were introduced for improving the condition of that service, that it could pass during the present year. It was not, therefore, his intention to bring in a bill upon that subject this session. With respect to the Superannuation Fund, the Act, he thought, would admit of material amendment, and he reserved to himself the liberty of submitting, at any time during the present or the succeeding session, a measure upon that part of the question.

Mr. HADFIELD asked Lord John Russell if he would lay on the table of the House accounts showing whether the two sums of £260,000 and £182,073 (together £442,073), voted last session for educational purposes in Great Britain and Ireland, have been wholly or partly expended, and in what way, and among what parties, sects, or denominations, before any further grant be asked for the like purposes. Lord JOHN RUSSELL said he had laid before the House a statement of the amount advanced on account of public education up to the 5th of April, from which the hon. gentleman might obtain the information he required.

In reply to Mr. CORDEN, Lord J. RUSSELL said that he could not find that Lord Redcliffe had offered any opposition to the measure for the expulsion of the Greeks from Turkey before it was promulgated. But since it had been proclaimed the noble lord had used every means with the Turkish Government to mitigate the severity of that decree.

The Scotch Education Bill stands first on the orders of the day for Friday next.

On Monday, Lord J. RUSSELL moved a resolution in reference to the standing orders of the House, to the effect that Government business should have precedence over other orders of the day upon all Thursdays during the remainder of the session. Mr. FREWEN moved as an amendment, that the precedence asked by the Government should be allowed them only upon the alternate Thursdays. Considerable discussion ensued, many complaints being urged of the restricted opportunities that were given to independent members for bringing forward bills, motions, &c. Ultimately, however, the resolution was adopted, Lord J. RUSSELL giving up the two proximate Thursdays, and consenting that the resolution should not take effect until the 25th inst.

In reply to Mr. BOWYER, Sir J. GRAHAM stated that neither Roman Catholic nor any other sailors were compelled to attend the Protestant services on board her Majesty's navy. The attendance on those services was merely permissive, not compulsory, to any member of the crews.

On Monday also, Sir J. SHELLEY moved for a return of the titles, names, and addresses of publishers; and of the weight, and dates of registration, of all registered newspapers, whereof a portion is published without stamps. The motion was opposed by the Government, and rejected by 52 to 36.

Mr. DRUMMOND has obtained a select committee to inquire into the present management and condition of the Crown forests in England.

Sir J. GRAHAM on Monday obtained leave to introduce two bills for the encouragement of seamen; and for facilitating the payment of the navy, and the distribution of prize bounty and salvage moneys among the officers and crews of her Majesty's ships of war. The measures, he observed, were similar to those which had passed with relation to prizes at the commencement of every war, differing only in containing some modifications of the scale under which prize money was to be distributed, designed so as to favour the seamen.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A meeting for conferring degrees in the University of London was held on Wednesday at University College. The Vice-Chancellor, Mr. J. G. S. Lefevre, presided, in the absence of the Chancellor, the Earl of Burlington. Among the visitors present were Lord Overstone, Mr. Hume, M.P.; Mr. Cheetham, M.P.; Baron Goldsmid, the Principal of Christ's Hospital, the Treasurer of Gray's Inn, and the Treasurer of the Middle Temple.

The report, which was read by the Registrar, stated that, during the last academical year, 210 candidates had passed the Matriculation examination, of whom twelve had taken honours in mathematics and natural philosophy, twelve in classics, fourteen in chemistry, and three in botany.

The following degrees were then conferred:—M.D.—James Morris, University College; F. W. Pavy, J. S. Stoker, Guy's Hospital. M.A.—W. Gurney, A. D. Sprange, University College; J. C. A. Scott, Manchester New and University Colleges. LL.B.—G. Y. MacMahon, Queen's University (Ireland); J. P. Green, J. B. Winterbotham, University College. M.B.—T. B. Washbourn, Guy's Hospital. B.A.—A. W. Bennett, S. H. Blackmore, J. F. Cheetham, W. Butler, A. Eccles, F. E. Fox, A. Greg, A. P. Hensman, H. C. Hull, M. M. Magrath, T. Stevenson, G. Waugh, University College; G. Lingham, King's College; W. H. Potter, E. Smith, Manchester New College; E. L. Jacob, Queen's College, Birmingham; R. S. Ashton,

G. Cornish, E. Miller, W. M. Robertson, J. R. Thomson, New College; G. Liddett, Wesley College; M. Gutteridge, Bedford Grammar School.

The following honours and prizes were also presented:—John Charles Addyes Scott, Manchester New and University, Medal in Classics; John Philip Green, University, Law Scholarship; Thomas Buchanan Washbourn, Guy's Hospital, Medal in Physiology and Comparative Anatomy; Thomas Buchanan Washbourn, Guy's Hospital, Scholarship and Medal in Medicine; Wells Butler, University, Scholarship in Classics; Edward Long Jacob, Queen's College, Birmingham, Prize in Animal Physiology; Alfred William Bennett, University, and Josiah Miller, New College, Prizes in Scriptural Examination; Thomas Edwin Burton Brown, Guy's Hospital, Exhibition and Medal in Anatomy and Physiology; William Price Jones, University, Medal in Chemistry; Clement Williams, Guy's Hospital, Medal in Chemistry; Thomas Edwin Burton Brown, Guy's Hospital, Exhibition and Medal in Materia Medica; William Price Jones, University, Medal in Materia Medica; Thomas Edwin Burton Brown, Guy's Hospital, Medal in Botany; James Heath, King's, Exhibition in Classics; George Carey Foster, University, Prize in Chemistry.

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

The Board of Trade returns for the month and three months ending the 5th of April last were issued on Saturday. The returns of exports continue extremely satisfactory. The total declared value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, including only the "enumerated articles," during the month and three months is as follows:—

	For the month.	For 3 months.
1854 . . .	8,880,805 . . .	£21,361,331
1853 . . .	7,887,233 . . .	20,321,723
1852 . . .	6,400,415 . . .	16,575,748

Including the "enumerated articles" (recently, by an improved arrangement, included in the official return), the month's exports this year are raised to £10,042,754, and those of the three months to £24,238,208. These figures show the remarkable fact, that the month which included the actual declaration of war against Russia was marked by an increase of exporting activity considerably greater than was observed during the preceding period when negotiations were in progress. In nearly all the most important items there is an increase. The increase in that most important branch, the cotton trade, is very marked. The increase in the exports of metals, haberdashery and millinery, hardwares and cutlery, coals and culm, beer and ale, stationery, &c., may be described as enormous. The decrease in the export of oils (linseed, hempseed, and rapeseed) is owing to the war with Russia, from which country little or no supply of oleaginous produce is to be expected.

In respect to articles of food, the quantities of wheat were 567,220 quarters, as compared with 287,158 last year. There is also a great increase in the importation of rice; and in coffee, eggs, sugar, tobacco, wines, &c., the increase is very decided, and affords gratifying evidence of the continued and general prosperity of the population. The supply of tea was less than half the usual amount, but this is accounted for by the alteration in the duty. There is a steady progress in the quantity of sugar imported.

The *Examiner* has the following welcome information on "Agricultural Prospects":—

As far as can be safely predicated at so early a period of the year, agricultural prospects are, according to our judgment, not only fair but good. There was ample time and fair weather for preparing the land, and sowing winter wheat, and in reality a great breadth has been sown. The long drought has in no respect damaged this deep-rooted crop, for in this matter it has only had what may be called its native climate exchanged for our exotic one. The young wheats were rather short before the recent fall of rain, but now look fresh and green, and nothing is wanting to insure a heavy crop, but that summer of adequate heat and length which it is not unreasonable to expect. In a word, we shall be disappointed if the quarter of wheat should exceed 45s., or the four pound loaf 6d.—a change in our favour which would save us a sum, compared with our expenditure for bread-corn in the present year, equal to three times the amount of a double income-tax.

With respect to the spring crops, nothing could have been more favourable in almost every respect than the long drought of March and April. Instead of one "peck of March dust worth a king's ransom," we have had at least two of them. An unexampled length of time has been afforded for tilling and sowing, and the crops of barley and oats are, just now, as promising as the most sanguine farmer could have looked for. The season has been hardly less favourable for mangels, carrots, and parsneps, and now that the moment has arrived for turnip-sowing, the necessary rain has fallen at the right time. As to potatoes, the same long continuance of dry weather has been equally propitious to them, and we are even sanguine enough to hope, after a seven years' punishment, for the disappearance, through it, of the epidemic blight. The only product that has suffered from the long drought is grass, but even for this it is by no means too late, in so far as the making of hay is concerned, for, with some continuance of such copious rains as we have had within the last few days, we may reckon on the grass springing up with tropical rapidity and luxuriance.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Her Majesty has, it is understood, intimated that Saturday, the 3rd of June, will be the day most suited to the royal convenience for the opening ceremonial at the Crystal Palace. The 27th of May, the day originally contemplated, would, by coming in the same week with her Majesty's birth-day, have interfered with her Majesty's invariable custom of spending her birth-day week "at home," with the exception of the great annual reception day. According to this arrange-

ment, the first shilling day will be on the 12th of June, and thus the season ticket-holders will have one whole week for undisturbed inspection of the courts of art, the statues, and the general arrangements of the interior.

The floral decorations of the interior have received an important and gratifying accession. The Queen sent in the course of last week her head gardener, Mr. Ingram, to ascertain whether there was any deficiency in the supply of exotics which might be supplied from the royal collections. A minute inspection having satisfied that gentleman as to what additions might be desirable, an abundant supply of rare and valuable plants arrived at Sydenham on Friday last, and are now in the course of arrangement.

An abstruse calculation has been made to show the impossibility of bringing more than 20,000 people to Sydenham in a day. The Brighton company, however, have made arrangements to run trains every ten minutes, each train capable of containing 1,000 people, and, supposing them to run from eight in the morning until three in the afternoon, we should have a total of nearly 50,000 by train alone; to which we must add a continuous stream by the two roads in course of construction from Dulwich, in carriages, omnibuses, and on foot, should the popularity of the sight equal the expectations of the directors. There will be no turntables nor check-taking at the entrance to delay the visitors, who, having paid at London-bridge, will have no more trouble or delay, while the visitors by road will enter by a separate entrance. Another arrangement which will vastly facilitate the accommodation and enjoyments of large numbers of visitors will be the retaining of the refreshment-rooms under the immediate control of the directors. Every one who visited the Exhibition of 1851 must remember the frequent crowding and scrambling for food, and the frequent dissatisfaction that arose from the contracted spaces allowed for the refreshment-rooms and the anxiety of contractors to make the largest possible profit out of their bargain. There will be nothing of this kind at the Sydenham Palace. The arrangements for refreshments, which have all been placed in the hands of Mr. Horne, late of the Lord Warden Hotel at Dover, will have mainly in view the furnishing to the public the greatest amount and the best quality of refreshment on the lowest terms; and in the organisation of the attendance the lessons furnished by the Paris fêtes of 1851, the great military banquet at Satory, and the admirable arrangements at the recent Imperial ball in the French capital, are to be duly studied, and carefully adapted to the somewhat differing customs of this country.

In the galleries of sculpture, the nudity of male figures is to be abated. As soon as the mode of arranging the sculpture enabled the directors to form a final opinion they decided, "much to the horror of Owen Jones," on resorting to that "safeguard of British modesty," the fig-leaf. So extensive an order for the earliest fashions of Paradise was never before issued, and was, therefore, not so easy of execution. But the resolution of the directors has been buttressed by a remonstrance emanating from a number of bishops, noblemen, and influential gentlemen.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The Court remains at Buckingham Palace, and Prince Albert is very assiduous in visiting the various exhibitions of paintings. On Thursday, the Earl of Elgin had an audience of the Queen, to take leave before proceeding to Canada. On Monday, her Majesty gave a grand concert, which was attended by the Royal Family, the Foreign Ministers, and a large circle of the nobility. At the *levee*, on Wednesday, Mr. S. Bignold, Mayor of Norwich, who was present to present an address from the corporation of that city, relative to the war, was, quite unexpected to himself, knighted by the Queen on the spur of the moment.

Colonel Perronet Thompson has, it appears, been restored to his right place in the army list, and the present military administration has the credit of rectifying an injustice which a former régime had perpetrated and persevered in.

Mr. George Ferguson Bowen, Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, has been appointed Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, in the room of Sir John Fraser, who retires on a pension, after twenty years' service in that post.

Mr. Tufnell has accepted the Stewardship of the manor of Northstead; thus creating a vacancy at Devonport.

At a meeting of the Reform Committee, on Thursday last, it was resolved to invite Sir Erskine Perry as a candidate. A public meeting of electors was held at the Mechanics' Institution on Saturday evening, Dr. Tripe in the chair, when a resolution to support Sir Erskine was proposed by Mr. Jeffrey, seconded by Mr. Joseph Elms, and carried unanimously. At the same time a meeting of Conservative electors was held at Moorshead's Royal Hotel, Mr. Glencross in the chair, when resolutions were carried in favour of Mr. W. H. Maxwell.

Mr. Brisco, member for Hastings, has accepted the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds. Mr. North comes forward as a candidate in the Liberal, and Mr. Craike in the Conservative interest.

Sir George Grey and the Bishop of New Zealand have just arrived in the *Commodore* from New Zealand.

The Warburtonian Lectureship at Lincoln's Inn has been conferred upon the Reverend William Goode, M.A., Rector of All Hallows, Thames Street.

We have authority to state that there is no foundation for a paragraph which we extracted on Saturday, from the *Civil Service Gazette* to the effect that Mr. Wilson was about to retire from Parliament and accept

the office of Commissioner of Customs at Liverpool. Mr. Wilson's health is nearly restored, and he hopes in a few days to resume attendance at the Treasury and in the House of Commons.—*Times*.

Sir Robert Peel, Bart., has arrived at Lady Peel's residence in Whitehall-gardens from Italy.

Mr. John Robert Godley, employed in the collection of the income-tax, is removed, in the same capacity, to London from Dublin, where his services are no longer required.

On Sunday morning week, the Rev. Dr. Newton, the well-known Wesleyan Methodist pulpit and platform orator, died at Easingwold, Yorkshire, in the bosom of his family. On the previous Tuesday he was seized with paralysis, but, during his last moments, had sufficient command of his faculties to give assurance to the bystanders of his joyful anticipations of heaven.

It is said that a rescript from Rome, calling on the priests of Ireland to abstain altogether from interference in political affairs, may shortly be expected, if it has not already arrived in Dublin.

A meeting of the Liberal electors of Cambridge has decided by ballot, that Messrs. Adair and Mowatt shall be their candidates. Mr. Campbell has thrown himself into the arms of the Conservatives.

The Hon. Thomas E. M. L. Mostyn was, on Monday, elected to the representation of Flintshire without opposition. His father, the late member, has succeeded to the peerage.

Mr. C. W. Puller offers himself as a Liberal candidate for Hertfordshire, in consequence of the melancholy death of Mr. T. P. Halsey.

At a meeting, attended by the Mayor, the Master Cutler, the vicar, and other leading gentlemen of Sheffield, it has been determined, with the consent of the relatives of the late James Montgomery, who died on Sunday week, that the funeral should be a public one. The remains of the poet will be deposited in the Sheffield cemetery on Thursday (to-morrow).

Law and Police.

There was tried in the Court of Exchequer yesterday week an action which, as Mr. Baron Alderson justly said, ought rather to have been tried at the Old Bailey—the suit of Sherwood v. Meiklam. Mr. James, in opening the case, stated that the defendant, Mr. John Meiklam, was a young gentleman, the son of a person of large fortune in Scotland, who had, at the request of a person named Elliott, entrusted to him a bill at two months for £100 to get discounted for him. Elliott brought this bill to one Newcombe, clerk to the firm of Vincent and Day, attorneys in Paper-buildings, in the Temple, and gave it to him on the understanding that he was to "get it done" in a few days. This was six or seven days after the date of acceptance; and Newcombe and his brother, who kept a betting-office, gave Elliott £11 as a loan to himself, but he understood that was to go out of the bill. Newcombe returned the bill to Elliott eleven days before it was due, and Elliott brought it to a man of the name of Welshman, who refused to discount it at so short a date. Elliott then returned the bill to Newcombe. He denied that he had ever heard of Sherwood, except that he was an attorney, and that Newcombe said that if Mr. Meiklam would become a client of Sherwood's, he might have what money he wanted. Nothing more was heard of the bill until Sherwood wrote a letter to Meiklam stating that he held an overdue acceptance of his, had sued the drawer, and obtained judgment against him, but was now obliged to proceed against the acceptor. These facts being proved, Mr. James submitted that enough was shown to entitle him, on the authority of the recent cases, to call the plaintiff to prove consideration. Mr. Baron Alderson, after consulting the other learned barons sitting in the full court, said that they were of opinion that the consideration should be proved. Mr. Petersdorff said that nothing could gratify the plaintiff more than the opportunity of proving his case; but, after the cross-examination of Newcombe, Mr. Sherwood and his counsel agreed to accept a non-suit. Mr. James then applied to his lordship to impound the bill. Mr. Baron Alderson made the order, and observed that a grosser fraud he had never known.

At the Insolvent Debtors Court, on Thursday, Mr. S. W. Lane Fox, twice member of Parliament, applied for his discharge, after an imprisonment of fourteen months. "It appears," says a *Times* leader on the case, "that Mr. S. W. Lane Fox, late member for Beverley and Ipswich, from various landed estates, from a house in St. James's-square, from funded property, and from coal royalties, derived an income of more than £17,000 per annum. From this gross income a certain deduction must be made, for various charges upon the estate, of about £5,000 a-year, leaving to Mr. Fox, in the shape of disposable income, as life tenant, no less than £12,000 a-year. This large income has been simply muddled away among coal-merchants, wine-merchants, fruiterers, &c.—upon electioneering expenses to the extent of £7,000, and upon the interest on money raised to satisfy the debts contracted in the two methods just named. Mr. Fox appears just to have kept a good house, to have bought a seat in Parliament, and raised money from time to time when he found himself short of cash, to meet the expenses consequent upon this mode of life. Twelve thousand a-year, and £100,000 besides, have been devoted to such uses in the course of a very few years." Only two opposing creditors appeared, and to them the Commissioner did not listen, considering them to blame for the reckless credit they had afforded. To an Italian warehouseman he owed upwards of £600, to a fishmonger nearly £500, and to a milkman £225.

Six young men, the oldest 23, the youngest only 15, have been convicted at the Middlesex Sessions of having attempted to pick pockets, and have been sentenced to

various terms of imprisonment. From the statements of officers, it appeared that one prisoner had already had six months' hard labour, another had been summarily convicted four times, a third twice, and the others lived by systematic plunder. The gang, about forty strong, was under the leadership of a notorious burglar, known as "the Chelsea lawyer," a *sobriquet* supposed to have been applied to him on account of the success with which he had hitherto evaded justice. Their modes of plunder were almost innumerable, their latest dodge being the exhibition in the street of a small model of a man-of-war, to which they attract attention by representing it to be a model of the Duke of Wellington, the admiral's flag-ship in the Baltic, and as persons stand looking at it some of the gang are ready to clear out their pockets.

At the Southwark Court, Isabella Martinef, a young girl about sixteen years of age, by profession a ballet-dancer, was charged with attempting to commit suicide in the river Thames. It appeared that she had been a short time out of employ, and had some words with her mother. She left home, and at night was seen by a female to throw herself into the river at London-bridge, and by active exertions she was rescued. On Wednesday her mother, and her sister, who is also a ballet-dancer, attended at the police-court, and the prisoner expressed her regret for having attempted such a rash act. Mr. A. Beckett, after admonishing her, ordered her to be discharged, and handed to her sister a sovereign, which he had received from Mr. Smith, the lessee of Drury-lane Theatre, for her present wants, with an intimation that he would immediately employ both sisters at his theatre.

A man and his wife, who have been passing several forged notes at public-houses, have been lodging for upwards of two months in the house of Roche, the gaoler of the Thames Police-court, who was quite ignorant of their doings until they were arrested.

Mr. Friend, the proprietor of the Diorama, in Regent-street, was visited a few days since by a person who introduced himself as Mr. Charles Butler of the *Times*, took a glass of wine, and borrowed a couple of guineas—on the strength, of course, of a promised notice in the leading journal. The notice not appearing, application was made at the office, and the applicant referred to the solicitor for the establishment, who accordingly laid the complaint before the Bow-street magistrate, who advised an indictment for fraud.

Miscellaneous News.

The announcement of the termination of the Preston strike seems to have been premature. The spinners declare they will still persevere, and the weavers "bide their time."

The porters on the Lancashire and Yorkshire, and the East Lancashire Railway Companies, at the Salford station, struck on Friday; but, after a meeting of Directors, the affair was settled.

It is said that a scrutiny of the votes for the election of a Churchwarden of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, has resulted in a majority for Mr. Davidson, and that legal steps will be taken to prevent Mr. Westerton from exercising the office.

Professor Owen has forwarded an elaborate protest against the use of the Square of Lincoln's-inn Fields as a site for the proposed new Law Courts, to Dr. Waller Lewis, who has enclosed it to the General Board of Health, with a recommendation that the portion of St. Clement's Danes parish, now overcrowded with alleys and courts, should be the site chosen.

At a special meeting of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers, on Tuesday, Colonel Dawson asked "what progress has been made with the arrangements for reconstructing this Commission?" Not wishing to embarrass the Government, he yet desired that the public should know why the Commission continues in office. The chairman, Mr. R. Jebb, said that he could give no information on the subject; but he had reason to believe that, before long, a bill will be brought into Parliament. Probably nothing can be known until the bill be laid on the table of the House of Commons.

From the Quarterly Return of the Registrar-General it appears that the number of marriages continues to exceed the average. In the quarter ending December 31, no less than 97,772 persons were married—a greater number than in any similar period, and 3,366 in excess of the same quarter of 1852. There was a decrease in the births (360,892) registered during the last quarter of 706, as compared with the births registered in the same quarter of 1853. The deaths registered from December 31 to March 31, were 831,970, leaving an excess of population 48,922. This excess is increased by the immigration of Irish and others into England, and diminished by their emigration; the number of the former is not known—that of the latter, from all the ports of the United Kingdom, 68,565.

Henry Vincent, Esq., has, during the past week, delivered three lectures on the progressive tendencies of the present age in the Town-hall, Haslingden, on three successive evenings, to very large audiences—the large room, on the last evening, being very much crowded. The meetings were presided over respectively by the Rev. G. W. Clapham, John Binns, Esq., surgeon, and the Rev. W. Antleff. The meeting on each occasion was composed of persons in varied gradations of life, and holding different shades of political doctrines; while on the platform were grouped the clergymen and all the Dissenting ministers of the town. Before Mr. Vincent took his departure from the last meeting, a vote of thanks to him was proposed by Mr. Binns, and seconded by Mr. Clapham, which, on being put from the chair, was carried with acclamation.

Two Dutchmen, Antwerp merchants, father and son, absconded with no less than £5,500, the property of other firms, and came to London. Information of the fact was telegraphed to this country, and the fugitives

were traced from place to place by Webb and Funnell, two detective officers, until they became located in Prescott-street, Whitechapel. Mr. Haines, the Dutch Consul, was applied to and rendered every assistance, and on Friday Mr. Justice Coleridge granted a *capias* against the accused. On Saturday the officers met the offenders in Swan-street, Minories, and after a desperate struggle succeeded in taking them into custody. They were taken into a public-house in John-street, Minories, and upon the son was found a canvas bag, beneath his shirt, containing £4,500, and upon the father-in-law £1,000. A mob of nearly 2,000 persons, principally low Jews, collected in the neighbourhood, and the personal safety of Webb and Funnell was in considerable danger. The officers' clothes were torn, and they sustained considerable injury.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the friends of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland, was held on Wednesday, at the rooms in Duke-street, St. James's; Lord Dudley Stuart presiding. Among those present were the Earls of Harrowby and Harrington, the Marquis of Breadalbane, Lord Beaumont, Sir B. Hall, Sir J. V. Shelley, Colonel Freestun, Mr. J. A. Smith, Mr. Fox Strangways, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Captain Townshend, Mr. Alderman Salomons, Mr. Silk Buckingham, the High Bailiff of Southwark, Lieut-Colonel Szulezowski, and a number of Poles. The report, among other things, explained the steps which had been taken for the formation of a Polish legion, commanded by Polish officers, and fighting under the national banner in the service of the Sultan. For that purpose a correspondence had taken place between the Turkish Ministers and Prince Adam Czartorsky, and subsequently Lord Dudley Stuart had proceeded to the East to facilitate its accomplishment. The scheme had encountered, until recently, the opposition of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, on the ground of his anxiety to conciliate Austria. This opposition was now, however, withdrawn, and the report announced, that within a few weeks the flag of Poland would be once more raised against Russia.

Literature.

THE PERIODICALS (MAY).

The opening article of the *North British Review* is upon a topic which a slender and anonymous publication, but one attributed to an eminent philosopher, has just set every one talking, if not thinking, upon—the grand and splendid speculation of a "Plurality of Worlds." The object of the "Essay" in question is, to prove—or, at least, to suggest—"that our earth is the largest, the only inhabited world, in the universe." The writer in the *North British* treats the suggestion with angry contempt, and makes himself merry with the author's facts and reasonings. After bestowing a dozen introductory pages upon such of the phenomena of sidereal science as favour his poetic sentiment, he comes plump upon the book under review with the imputation of "absurdity," and of something like impiety. "Did we believe in the proximity of the millennial age, we should rank it among the lying wonders which are to characterize the latter times." If this sort of controversy does not unpleasantly resemble that to which Galileo and Copernicus were treated in their day, the further imputation of "panting for notoriety," is certainly undignified, if not unjust. Much more to our taste, if not quite satisfactory to our understanding, are the reasoning and declamation instanced in the following passages:—

NATURAL PROBABILITY THAT THE STARS ARE INHABITED.

"The motion of our sun in absolute space, attended by all the primary and secondary planets and comets of the system, is one of the most extraordinary facts which astronomy presents to us. That this group of celestial bodies are moving round some distant centre,—some enormous globe which controls their motion, cannot be doubted. So distant is that centre, that though the motion of our system is at the rate of *fifty-seven miles in a second*, it may require thousands of centuries before it completes a single round of its orbit. We do not mention this great cosmical truth as a positive argument for a plurality of worlds; but it displays in the most striking manner the absurdity of the opinion, that machinery so vast is to remain in action during cycles so long, and that an ephemeral race like our own, seated in so small a chariot, may be the only passengers which are thus wafted through universal space—enclosed within the orbits of magnificent globes, and the network paths of a thousand comets. The mind recoils from a sentiment so absurd and so incompatible with every idea which we can form of the economy of wisdom and of power which is exhibited around us. It is a sentiment, indeed, which if the astronomical mind could give it a moment's consideration, it would place in the same category as that of a fleet of merchantmen chartered to carry a single mustard seed to the Great Mogul; or that of the largest possible railway train making the round of Europe with no other passenger than Tom Thumb!"

"There is another aspect of this question which we would press on the attention of those who consider the earth as the only seat of life and intelligence. Those persons who can bring themselves to believe that all the other planets of the system are uninhabited, can have no difficulty in conceiving that the earth also might have been in the same category; and, consequently, the sun with all his gorgeous vassals, and the planets with all their faithful satellites, would have performed their daily and annual rounds, without an eye to see their glory, and without a voice to lift itself

in praise. To our minds, such a condition of a planet,—of the Solar System,—and consequently of the sidereal universe, would be the same as that of our own globe, if all its vessels of war and of commerce were traversing its seas, with empty cabins and freightless holds—as if all the railways on its surface were in full activity without passengers and goods—and all our machinery beating the air and gnashing their iron teeth without work performed. A house without tenants, a city without citizens, present to our minds the same idea as a planet without life, and a universe without inhabitants. Why the house was built, why the city was founded, why the planet was made, and why the universe was created, it would be difficult even to conjecture. Equally great would be the difficulty were the planets shapeless lumps of matter poised in ether, and still and motionless as the grave; but when we consider them as chiselled spheres teeming with inorganic beauty, and in full mechanical activity, performing their appointed motions with such marvellous precision, that their days and their years never err a second of time in hundreds of centuries, the difficulty of believing them to be without life is, if possible, immeasurably increased. To conceive any one material globe, whether a gigantic clod slumbering in space, or a noble planet equipped like our own, and duly performing its appointed task, to have no living occupants, or not in a state of preparation to be occupied, seems to us one of those notions which could be harboured only in an ill-educated and ill-regulated mind,—a mind without faith and without hope; but to conceive a whole universe of moving and revolving worlds in such a category, indicates, in our apprehension, a mind dead to feeling and shorn of reason."

The reviewer indignantly "consigns to a note," a passage in which his author describes planets and stars as "the lumps which have flown from the potter's wheel of the great worker; the tire-coils which, in his working, sprung from his mighty lathe; the sparks which darted from his awful anvil when the solar system lay incandescent thereon; the curls of vapour which arose from the great cauldron of creation, when its elements were separated;" and so on. But in this paragraph, short as it is, there is a happy mixture of argument and banter:—

JUPITER A WETTED CINDER.

"Enjoying something like a triumph over the moon, he next carries us to Jupiter, and, after some preliminary speculations on the internal condition of our earth, he applies the results of these speculations to 'the question of the planets being inhabited,' that is, he is willing to reason analogically from the *supposed* structure of the earth to the structure of Jupiter, while he refuses to reason analogically from the *actual* occupation of the earth by inhabitants to the probable occupation of Jupiter by inhabitants. By such a process 'he offers it as a conjecture, not quite arbitrary, that *Jupiter is a mere sphere of water!*' and he afterwards kindly contributes a few *cinders for its centre*,—though how anything could be reduced to cinders upon a sphere *wholly composed of water*, neither our author nor our chemistry can inform us. Ye students of the planets, who, under the exhalations of the night, have observed their motions, or by the midnight lamp have investigated their laws, behold Jupiter, the sovereign of the throng, careering a *wetted cinder*,—a huge tear dropped by Saturn over the misconduct of his brethren. Ye minstrels who have sung 'the poetry of heaven,' and have read 'in its bright leaves the fate of men and of empires,' shall you meet with the muses in these marshes of light, the abode of tadpoles and of lizards? Helicon is there frozen,—the Pierian spring is a stalactite of ice, and Mount Parnassus a gigantic and perennial glacier. Shade of Galileo—is the glory of having added four moons to the monarch planet to be thus suddenly and ignobly quenched?"

It is very agreeable, though rather a surprise, to find this large expenditure of philosophic rage balanced at the end by professions of high esteem and regard. The quarrelling philosophers are both philanthropists;—and the author, closing his book with a prediction of blessedness for earth, is forgiven by the reviewer his abuse of Jupiter, and is pronounced a "distinguished philosopher, a profound thinker, an eloquent writer, a manly philanthropist, and a successful prophet."

John Foster was much grieved at the announcement, if we remember rightly, of the discovery of snow in one of the planets—connecting, in his moody logic, snow with sin, and sin with man. Leigh Hunt, on the contrary, has recorded somewhere his delight at the idea of stellar populations. Perhaps the men of both temperaments would unite in the sentiment of the Turkish Cadi, addressed to Mr. Layard:—

"Listen, oh, my son! There is no wisdom equal unto the belief in God. He created the world; and shall we liken ourselves to Him in seeking to penetrate the mysteries of his creation? Shall we say, Behold this star spineth round that star, and this other star with a tail cometh and goeth in so many years? Let it go! He from whose hand it came will direct and guide it."

We take this extract from the next article of the number—where the Cadi's amusing letter is introduced as an expression of that "complacent ignorance and pious trust" which the men of greatest intellectual activity will most respect and not seldom envy. The article—under the heading "British and Continental Characteristics"—rebukes, by the example of the Celtic and Teutonic peoples, that incessant and insatiate pursuit of worldly good for which the Anglo-Saxon race is

singular; to which it owes its successes, but also much of guilt and wretchedness. We are not prepared to accept all the writer's illustrations of his subject; but the lesson he designs to teach is one we habitually aid to enforce.

"The Union with England, and Scottish Nationality," are the subjects of a very candid, moderate, and forcible article. A high significance and value lie in its advocacy of the principle that, "whatever business pertains to any locality, town, or district, ought, as far as possible, to be transacted within the limits of that locality, town, or district;" and of the proposal to "have, in every parish, a weekly folk-mote," for the consideration of local or national questions. "If we are not mistaken," concludes the writer, "the agitation for Scottish Rights will, sooner or later, connect itself with this great speculation. Perhaps, indeed, the most interesting mode of viewing the agitation is, to regard it as an unexpected revolt of one most important and sedate part of the island against a system of Parliamentary and official centralization, which all parties equally dislike. Scotland takes the lead in the movement, and has regard chiefly to herself in her mode of advocating it; but it is a movement by which England, Wales, and Ireland, will also profit."

An admirable article on "Ruskin and Architecture," contains a suggestion that we hope will not be unheeded—for it relates to an edifice of which it is justly said, "With all its faults, it is a most splendid work; and if it had but the good fortune to be a middle-age ruin, instead of a bran-new nineteenth-century production, it would be scarcely second in fame to the cathedral of Cologne itself:—"

A DEFECT IN THE PARLIAMENTARY PALACE.

"We fancy that most persons would agree with us, that it would be highly desirable if, happily, it were possible, to remedy the grand defect of the river-front—want of height. What an inestimable addition to the effect of this, the grand facade of the building, would be the increase of its height by only ten or fifteen feet! Considering what has already been spent upon this edifice, half a million more might well be devoted to the remedy of this defect. Our readers, particularly the architects, will smile when we assure them that the work is to be done at the cost of *less than one-fiftieth of that sum*. The face of the stone basement that rises from the water, and now carries the building, without forming a part of it, has only to be worked into shallow Gothic panels or arcades, to become incorporated with the building, and to raise it, to all artistic intents and purposes, by the requisite number of feet. And not only is this process expedient, in order to remedy the defect of altitude, but it is quite necessary, in order to preserve the integrity of the Gothic character, which, in an elaborate building like the present, is utterly repugnant to the neighbourhood of any spaces of clear wall. This plain unpanelled basement is an unmitigated eye-sore and inconsistency, without reference to the height of the building it carries. The idea of a separate basement—an essential part of a Pagan, or 'Renaissance' edifice,—is wholly contrary to the character of a Gothic building, which ought to spring from the earth itself as naturally as a tree or a crag. It is no answer to our proposition, to say that when the tide is very high, these arcades, &c., would be nearly hidden. It is far better that the river-front should look handsome, if it were only for half its time, than that it should never look so; but the fact is, that well-managed arcades, if only the arched heads of them were out of the water, would suggest the submerged portions to the imagination; and the effect would become even more pleasing at high tide than at low."

The May meetings are upon us! We must therefore only mention, with praise, the yet unnoticed articles of the number—Christian History in the Second Century, The Art of Education, Travels in Scandinavia, and Auguste Comte's Positivism.

The *Prospective Review* is distinguished by a very interesting paper on Giacomo Leopardi—a modern Petrarch, too little known to Englishmen. In an article on the controversy between Professor Newman and the author of the "Eclipse of Faith," the heavy charge of "fraud and sophistry" is endeavoured to be fastened on the latter; with what success we will not now inquire, having already pronounced an opinion upon all the evidence that is before the public. Education in its relation, to religion is the great topic of an article that is only too little practical. The "earnest" novel of the season—"Oakfield, or Fellowship in the East,"—is, as is usual with the *Prospective*, treated with much literary ability and right sentiment.

The story of the "Quiet Heart" comes to an end in this number of *Blackwood*; leaving but one wish among its readers—namely, that the writer would speedily resume his pen. Articles on the National Life of China, and on Russian Progress and Policy in Central Asia, are among the contents of a very good number; the charm, of which, however, is a critique upon the suppositious tragedy of "Fermilian"—the cleverly-constructed vehicle of a slashing, but good-humoured, attack upon the "spasmodic school" of poets. A just tribute to the memory of Professor Wilson closes the number.

The *Eclectic* has also its article on the "Plurality of Worlds"—an article indicated, by abundant signs, to be the production of Mr. Gilfillan; who attributes the "Essay" to Dr. Whewell, and finds in its scientific argumentations a gratifying confirmation of his own poetic speculations. The "Letters of the Duchesse of Orleans" supply the basis of a quite romantic historical paper.

Tait introduces to his readers an Austrian poet and liberal—Anastatus Grun—whose acquaintance we pronounce worth the making;—as are also, doubtless, all the other personages and topics dealt with, only some of which we have this busy month found time to study.

The *Monthly Christian Spectator* of this month is equal to, perhaps, any former number; we specify, only for their timeliness, the articles entitled, "Mr. Cobden on War," and the "Circulation of Religious Newspapers."

There is the sadness of a realised prediction of calamity about the first engraving in this month's *Art Journal*—a beautifully executed copy of Landseer's fine picture, "War." The Editor deems it necessary to explain that the selection was made long since; but surely no excuse was needed for its reproduction at this moment. The only other thing we can find room to say about the *Art Journal* is, that the publication within its covers of pictures in the royal galleries is announced—an announcement as welcome to the art-loving public as honourable to the zeal of the Queen and Prince Albert in promoting art-education.

BIRTHS.

April 19th, at Waterbarn, near Bacup, Lancashire, the wife of the Rev. JOHN HOWE, Baptist Minister, of a son and daughter.

May 1st, at Tysoe-street, Wilmington-square, London, the wife of HENRY THOMAS BERRY, Esq., surgeon, of a daughter.

May 5th, at 14, Eaton-place South, the Hon. Mrs. GEORGE DENMAN, of a son.

May 5th, at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, the wife of the Rev. JOHN SHEDLOCK, M.A., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

April 29th, by the Rev. J. S. Bright, at West-street Chapel, Dorking, Mr. JOHN GILL FUNNELL, of Great Compton-street, London, to Miss MARTHA TOMMAN, youngest daughter of the late Mr. DAVID TOMMAN, of Petersfield, Hants.

April 29th, at the Independent Chapel, Faringdon, by the Rev. R. Soper, Mr. JEREMIAH SMITH, of Camden-town, London, to TATIANA, daughter of JOHN FIDEL, Esq., of that town.

May 3rd, at Bridlington, by the Rev. B. Evans, of Scarborough, Mr. JOHN BARBER, of Nottingham, to ELEANOR, daughter of the late THOMAS BRILEY, Esq., of Bridlington.

May 5th, at Finsbury Chapel, by Rev. Dr. Massie, Mr. JOHN LAGGINS to Miss ROBINSON, of the Normal School, Borough-road.

May 4th, at St. George's, Hanover-square, by the Rev. Charles Baring, Lord Suffield to Miss CECILIA BARING, daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. HENRY BARING, of Berkeley-square.

May 6th, at Trinity Chapel, Poplar, by the Rev. George Smith, Mr. W. WALKER, of Stepney, to Miss MARY ANN WOOD, of Mile-end.

May 6th, at the Independent Chapel, Matlock-green, Derbyshire, by the Rev. N. Rowton, Mr. CHARLES STEVENS to JANE, only daughter of the late Mr. JAMES SWAIN, Rothwell, Northamptonshire.

DEATHS.

Lately, RACHAEL LLOYD, of the FARM, Bordesley, near Birmingham, widow of the late SAMUEL LLOYD, in her 86th year.

April 27th, at Cradley, Herefordshire, the Very Rev. CHARLES SCOTT LUXMOORE, Dean of St. Asaph, aged 62.

April 27th, at Turnham-green, Mr. WILLIAM PICKERING, bookseller and publisher, late of Piccadilly, in his 56th year.

April 30th, at St. Albans, in the 38th year of her age, ELIZABETH, the fourth daughter of the late Mr. THOMAS WILES, of South Mills, Beds.

May 3rd, at No. 19, Hill-street, Berkeley-square, the Lord COLBORNE, aged 75.

May 3rd, at Camden-house, Clifton, while on a visit to a relative, MARY, the beloved wife of WILLIAM REES, Esq., solicitor, Haverfordwest.

May 4th, at Wycliffe, the Venerable JOHN HEADLAM, rector of Wycliffe and Archdeacon of Richmond, aged 85.

May 5th, at 6, Burton-crescent, ANGELINA, only daughter of the late GEORGE TRADESCANT LAY, Esq., H.M.'s Consul for Amoy, China, aged 19 years.

May 8th, at Iping, near Midhurst, in the 65th year of his age, Mr. BENJAMIN PEWTERSS, of 30, Gracechurch-street, London.

In our last number, we quoted a rather favourable description of the Emperor Nicholas at home. M. Golovin, a Russian, gives a much more repulsive sketch of the great Czar, and cites various anecdotes in support of his views:—Lermontoff, another eminent Russian poet, died, and Nicholas exclaimed—"He lived like a dog, and he has died like one!" Ryleieff was a distinguished lyric poet. Nicholas hanged him! That is his way of treating Russian talent. Polejaieff was another young poet of Liberal tendencies. Nicholas called him to him and embraced him. Everybody believed that he meant to take him in favour. He made him a soldier, and when the poet died, a friend, wishing to find his body, was told to go and look among the boxes which are used as coffins for the common soldiers! Sakoloffsky wrote some spirited verses against the Czar. His judges asked him whether he had not hurled his fiercest invectives against God? "Yes," replied the poet, "knowing that God is more merciful than the Czar." He was thrown into a dungeon, which he never quitted, save as a corpse. Even at this very moment Nicholas is wreaking his vengeance on Bakunin, whom he is pledged to Austria to keep immured in prison. Disgust prevents our continuing the sad list of victims, and we will therefore conclude by mentioning a single fact, to show his mode of treating female poets. Madame Rastoptchin wrote some verses entitled, "The Husband and the Wife." The husband is Russia, and the wife is Poland, and the poet shows, that if they do not love one another it is for want of a proper understanding. Madame Rastoptchin was exiled to Moscow; the Court goes there, and, at the end of a few months, the Empress meets the exile at Madame Nemelrode's, and invites her to a ball at the palace. As soon as Nicholas sees her he orders her to quit the palace!

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

Oriz, Tuesday evening.

The English Stock Market has been rather slack for the last day or two in anticipation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement. It appears, on the whole, to have met with a very favourable reception; and although disappointment is felt in certain quarters that the expenses of the "war budget" should be met by an increase of taxation, instead of a loan, the decided advance in the funds plainly evinces the general satisfaction at the mode adopted for providing the expenses of the war. Consols opened this morning with a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with a strong tendency to go higher, the quotation at the opening being $87\frac{1}{2}$ to $87\frac{3}{4}$, from whence they shortly rose an eighth per cent. higher. The rise was maintained throughout the day. There is considerable ease in the money-market, but the discount houses offer $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for deposits for fixed periods.

The list of subscriptions to the £2,000,000 Exchequer Bonds was fixed to close at two o'clock yesterday, but the required amount not being then completed, the list was kept open two hours longer—viz., till four o'clock. It is understood that the amount deficient was not large, and Government can probably, if they think proper, bring their influence to bear privately to get this limited subscription completed.

There has been a daily drain on the Bank of England for gold to be remitted to France, but the rate of exchange having improved, the profit on its exportation is curtailed, and the drain has therefore become less active. The total exports of the precious metals last week amounted to about £450,000, against an importation of only about £220,000.

Foreign Stocks continue dull, but steady in price. To-day the transactions have been limited. Brazilian 5 per Cents. have been dealt in at 96. Mexican $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents. remain at 23 $\frac{1}{2}$. Peruvian $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents. are at 44. Russian 5 per Cent. Bonds are quoted at 93 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sardinian 5 per Cents. 80. Spanish 3 per Cents. are now at 36 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the New Deferred at 17 $\frac{1}{2}$. Dutch $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents. are rather lower, at 58 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the 4 per Cent. Certificates at 86 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Railway Share Market has not been much influenced by the advance in Consols; some of the principal shares are even a trifle lower. Aberdeens remain at 23. Eastern Counties have declined 5s. Great Westerns have improved about 10s. Lancashire and Yorkshire are 5s. lower. London and Brighton have been done at 98 $\frac{1}{2}$. London and North-Western fell 5s. lower. London and South-Westerns have improved 10s. Midlands have fallen more than 10s. South-Easterns have advanced 15s. York, Newcastle, and Berwicks are also higher by 10s. French Shares are rather better, but the transactions very limited.

The reports of the state of trade in the manufacturing towns during the past week show a considerable degree of dullness, from which Birmingham, however, has, as usual, been excepted. At Manchester prices are declining, owing to the increase of production from the cessation of strikes, coupled with general inactivity in the home and foreign demand. At Birmingham the orders for manufactured iron continue to accumulate, and in the other trades of the place also employment is abundant. At the same time, a better supply of coal is coming in from the development of the mines on Cannock-chase. The Nottingham advices show a very limited business, but prices on the whole are fairly maintained. The operative classes of the neighbourhood are for the most part in full occupation, and the journeymen carpenters still persist in their insane combination against machinery. In the woollen districts there has been no alteration. Two Manchester failures have been announced within the week—namely, Messrs. Brown, Coults, and Co., cotton brokers, for £10,000, and Mr. P. C. Salvago, a Greek merchant, for £35,702. In the latter case the nominal assets are stated at £93,939, of which £79,000 is represented by consignments to Constantinople and Syria, and an offer of payment by instalments extending over two years has been accepted.

The departures from London for the Australian colonies during the past week show an increase. They have comprised altogether eleven vessels—four to Port Phillip, with an aggregate burden of 2,091 tons; three to Adelaide, with an aggregate burden of 1,515 tons; two to Sydney, with an aggregate burden of 1,187 tons; one to Hobart Town, of 508 tons; and one to Launceston of 356 tons. Their total capacity was consequently 5,657 tons. The rates of freight exhibit a further tendency to decline.

The general business of the port of London has been very active during the past week, and the extraordinary magnitude of the importations helps to account for the drain of specie. The number of vessels reported inward was 355, being 126 over that of the previous week. The total quantity of grain imported was 88,646 quarters, including 82,557 quarters of wheat, in addition to 33,312 barrels and 2,842 sacks of flour. Of sugar there were reported 8,968 hhd., 4,764 casks, 9,869 cases, 72,936 bags, and 987 loaves; of tea, 63,270 packages; of rice, 40,515 bags; of paddy, 24,156 bushels; of coffee, 17,594 bags and 4,086 casks; of wool, 17,854 bales; and of tallow, 2,238 casks.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.	Saturday.	Mond.	Tuesd.
3 per Cent. Consols	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88
Consols for Account	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88
3 per Cent. Red.	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
New 3 per Cent.	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
India Stock	—	—	—	—	234-23	—
Bank Stock	—	202 $\frac{1}{2}$	202 $\frac{1}{2}$	202 $\frac{1}{2}$	202-50	255
Exchequer Bills	—	—	—	—	—	2 pm.
India Bonds	5 dis.	—	15 dis.	10 dis.	—	15 dis.
Long Annuities	48	48	48	48	48	48

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending on Saturday, the 29th day of April, 1864.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	26,188,460	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	12,188,460
		Silver Bullion	—
	26,188,460		236,188,460

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	—
Reserve	3,179,183	(including Dead Weight Annuity)	13,880,679
Public Deposits	2,018,493	Other Securities	14,438,192
Other Deposits	11,316,805	Notes	2,941,140
Seven Day and other Bills	1,126,996	Gold and Silver Coin	777,466
	232,187,477		232,187,477

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated the 4th day of May, 1864.

Friday, May 5th, 1864.

BANKRUPTS.

BOVERMAN, J., Gloucester, common brewer, May 16 and June 13; solicitor, Mr. Smith, Gloucester.
BOHNER, J., Holborn-hill, City, fancy warehouseman, May 15 and June 14; solicitors, Messrs. Clutton and Ade, High-street, Southwark.
GRANE, G. N., Chalfey, Sussex, surgeon, May 13 and June 16; solicitor, Mr. Fesemeyer, Bedford-row.
HUGHES, T., Wednesbury, Staffordshire, innkeeper, May 20 and June 10; solicitors, Messrs. Dugnan and Hemmant, Walsall; and Messrs. Wright, Birmingham.
HUNTER, J., Manchester, wholesale tea merchant, May 22 and June 14; solicitors, Messrs. Worthington and Earle, Manchester.
KISO, T. B., York, manufacturer of paper hangings, May 18 and June 15; solicitors, Messrs. Richardson and Gold, York; and Mr. Bulmer, Leeds.
MILLINGTON, J. B., Marlborough-place, Paddington, builder, May 16 and June 15; solicitor, Mr. Traill, Hare-court, Temple.
WOOD, W., Stalybridge, Lancashire, smith, May 19 and June 16; solicitor, Mr. Brooks, Ashton-under-Lyne.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

AITKEN, J., Glasgow, contractor, May 12.
BALSTON, R. W., and HOUSTON, J. M., Paisley, commission merchants, May 15.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

J. S. ROCAT, St. Martin's-lane, watchmaker, first div. of 64d any Wednesday, at Mr. Lee's Moorgate-street—W. NOLLE Charles-street, St. George's-in-the-East, stay manufacturer, second div. of 1d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—G. B. PERRITT, first div. of 6s. 2d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—R. PENISTAN, Staverton-row, Walworth, draper, first div. of 1s. 9d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—S. J. LECAS, Hingham, Norfolk, grocer, first div. of 3s. 3d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—P. J. HENSLER, Montagu-place, Russell-square, apothecary, first div. of 4d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—A. R. HOMERSHAM, Russell-street, Bermondsey, wool-stapler, first div. of 3s. May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—W. G. EDENHILL, High-street, Southwark, chinaman, first div. of 9d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—J. ROLLINGS, Landport, Hampshire, stay manufacturer, first div. of 2s. 8d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—J. LOADER, Finsbury-pavement, upholsterer, third div. of 9d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—W. CLONES, Bridges-street, Covent-garden, pawnbroker, third div. of 9-16th of 1d, May 9, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers—B. N. DODD, Hutton-le-Hole, Durham, grocer, first div. of 3s. May 6, and any subsequent Saturday, at Mr. Wakley's, Newgate-upon-Tyne—E. H. STARR, Exeter, cabinet maker, first div. of 2s. 6d, any Tuesday or Friday, at Mr. Hirtzel's, Exeter—W. STAG, Rod-ruth, Cornwall, linen-draper, first div. of 3s. 6d, any Tuesday or Friday, at Mr. Hirtzel's, Exeter—G. K. KENT, Taunton, Somersetshire, plumber, first div. of 4s, any Tuesday or Friday, at Mr. Hirtzel's, Exeter—T. N. ASHMAN, Yeovil, Somersetshire, currier, div. of 15s, any Tuesday or Friday, at Mr. Hirtzel's, Exeter—J. FIDAMAR, Newark-upon-Trent, currier, first div. of 3s. 1d, May 6, and three subsequent Saturdays, at Mr. Harris's, Nottingham.

Tuesday, May 9th, 1864.

The following place has been duly registered for the solemnization of marriages therein:—

St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Chapel, St. Martin Salisbury, Wiltshire.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

LEWIS DAVIS, Canton-street, East India-road, shipowner.

BANKRUPTS.

HILL, W., and LAWRENCE, T. C., Lime-street, shipagents, May 13, and June 23; solicitors, Messrs. Ellis, Phillips, and Salmonson, Clement's-lane.

NOCKALLS, J. C., Argyll-place, Regent-street, surveyor, May 16 and June 23; solicitors, Messrs. Deane and Austen, Lawrence-lane Chancery; and Mr. Darvill, Windsor.

BOXALL, H., Guildford, carpenter, May 23, and June 20; solicitor, Mr. Dodd, Jun., New Broad-street.

WELLS, J. J., Coventry, haberdasher, May 19 and June 23; solicitor, Mr. Goddard, King-street, Chancery.

FEATON, J., Three Colt-street, Limehouse, May 18 and June 22; solicitor, Mr. Goddard, King-street, Chancery.

KIRSON, E., Fenchurch-street, saddler, May 18 and June 22; solicitor, Mr. Burkett, Currier's-hall, London-wall.

EWIN, R., High-street, Islington, upholsterer, May 18 and June 17; solicitor, Mr. Palm, Gresham-street.

HOLLOWAY, W., Watford, Hertfordshire, coal merchant, May 18, and June 17; solicitors, Messrs. Thompson, Debenham and Brown, Salter's-hall, St. Swithin's-lane, and St. Albans, Herts.

WIDNEY, J. T., Huddersfield and Wakefield, wine merchant, May 26 and June 14; solicitors, Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

HIND, T., Sheffield, joiner, May 20 and June 17; solicitor, Mr. Fernell, Sheffield.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

W. NAISMITH, Glasgow, bootmaker, May 23.

Markets.

MARK-LANE, MONDAY, May 8, 1864.

English wheat was offering this morning in moderate quantities, but of foreign the arrivals since Monday last have been large, including upwards of 43,000 qrs. from Black Sea and Mediterranean Ports. The finest samples of English wheat sold at last Monday's quotations, but the market generally was dull and is to 2s. per qr. cheaper than on Monday last, and the sale of foreign very limited. The arrivals of American flour during the past week amount to 29,930 barrels, and this article met with a slow sale at Friday's reduction. In barley little doing. Beans, is. cheaper, and peas dull. With the exception of a good supply from Ireland, there were few oats offering, the demand was nevertheless limited, and prices 6d. per qr. lower than on Monday last. The current prices as under:—

BRITISH.		FOREIGN.	
Wheat—	s. d.	Wheat—	s. d.
Essex and Kent, Red	66 to 80	Dantzic	80 to 88
Ditto White	72 82	Konigsberg, Red	74 82
Lincoln, Norfolk, &		Pomeranian, Red	76 82
Yorkshire Red	74 84	Rostock	76 82
Northumb. & Scotch	74 84	Danish & Holstein	72 76
Rye	46 50	East Friesland	70 72
Barley maiting (new)	38 42	Petersburg	66 74
Distilling	35 35	Riga and Archangel	52 54
Malt (pale)	60 70	Polish Odessa	66 70
Beans, Mazagan	40 54	Marianopolis	72 74
Ticks	40 42	Taganrog	60 62
Harrow	42 44	Egyptian	44 46
Pigeon	52 56	America (U.S.)	76 82
Peas, White	50 52	Barley Pomeranian	35 36
Grey	42 44	Konigsberg	32 34
Maple	42 44	Danish	35 37
Boilers	52 54	East Friesland	32 34
Tares (English)	40 50	Egyptian	27 28
Foreign	40 50	Odessa	27 28
Oats (English feed)	28 31	Beans—	
Flour, town made, per		Horse	42 46
Sack, of 280 lbs.	56 68	Pigeon	46 48
Linseed, English	58 60	Egyptian	44 46
Baltic	60 62	Peas, White	48 50
Black Sea	62 64	Oats—	
Hempseed	34 40	Dutch	26 32
Canaryseed	52 56	Jahde	26 32
Cloverseed per cwt. of		Danish	26 29
112lbs. English	48 52	Danish yellow feed	29 32
German	50 54	Swedish	28 30
French	40 48	Petersburg	30 32
American	40 42	Flour, per bar. of 196 lbs.	
Linseed Cakes	£13 10 to £14	New York	35 40
Rape Cake	£4 to £6 10 per ton	Spanish per sack	56 60
Rapeseed	£34 to £36 per last	Caraway Seed	32 34

BUTCHERS' MEAT, SMITHFIELD, MAY 8.
Amongst the foreign stock on offer in to-day's market were nearly 200 oxen from Spain. With Dutch stock, we were but moderately supplied. The arrivals of beasts from our own grazing districts were good as to number, but there was a slight falling off in their general weight and condition compared with some previous weeks. Although the attendance of buyers was rather extensive, the beef trade was in a very sluggish state, at a decline in the prices obtained on Monday last of 2d. per 8 lbs. The top figure for the best Scots was 4s. 4d. per 8 lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 2,900 Scots and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 600 of various breeds; and from Scotland, 642 horned and polled Scots. The supply of all breeds of sheep was very moderate. As nearly the whole of that description of stock is arriving out of the wool, our quotations refer to shorn sheep only. The mutton trade was decidedly active, and the quotations were from 2d. to, in some instances, 4d. per 8 lbs. higher than on Monday last. Downs, out of the wool, realized from 4s. 10d. to 5s. per 8 lbs. There was a very limited inquiry for lambs, at Friday's decline in price of 4d. per 8 lbs. The highest figure was 6s. 6d. per 8 lbs. Calves were in fair average supply and sluggish request, at Friday's depression of 2d. per 8 lbs. We had a dull sale for pigs, at barely last week's quotations.

Per 8 lbs. to sink the offals.		s. d. s. d.	
Coarse and inferior	3 0 3 2	Prime coarse wool-	4 6 4 8
Beasts	3 4 3 6	led Sheep	4 6 4 8
Second quality do.	3 8 4 0	Prime South Down	4 10 5 0
Prime large Oxen	4 2 4 4	Sheep	4 4 5 0
Prime Scots, &c.	4 2 4 4	Large coarse Calves	5 2 5 6
Coarse and inferior	3 6 3 8	Prime small do.	3 0 4 2
Sheep	3 10 4 4	Large Hogs	4 4 4 8
Second quality do.	3 10 4 4	Neat small Porkers	4 4 4 8

Lambs, 5s. 2d. to 6s. 8d.
NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, May 8.—The late advance in the value of meat having brought forward large supplies from the provinces, our markets are dull, as follows:—

Per 8 lbs. by the carcass.		s. d. s. d.	
Inferior Beef	3 0 3 4	Small Pork	4 4 4 8
Middling do.	3 6 3 8	Inferior Mutton	3 4 3 6
Prime large do.	3 8 3 10	Middling do.	3 8 4 2
Do. small do.	3 10 4 0	Prime do.	4 4 5 6
Large Pork	3 4 4 0	Veal	3 10 5 2

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, May 8.—The weather was more favourable for vegetation last week. There were about 2,000 firkins of New Irish butter arrived, principally 3rd, 4th, and 5th Cork, and all sold in retail at 10s., 9s., and 8s. Buyers took merely enough for immediate wants, calculating on a speedy fall in prices. For foreign the demand was sluggish at a decline of 4s. to 6s.; Friesland, 10s. to 10s. 4d.; Kiel, 10s. to 10s. 6d.; Holland, 9s. to 9s. 6d.; Bouch, 9s. to 9s. 4d.; French, 8s. to 8s. 6d. Larger supplies are expected this week, and lower rates, which will probably have a corresponding effect upon Irish. Bacon was in more request; Irish 2s. dearer; American nearly stationary. Hams were sought after, and the turn higher. In Lard no change worth notice.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.		s. s.	
Friesland per cwt.	102 to 104	Cheshire (new) per cwt.	66 to 80
Kiel	106 112	Cheddar	68 80
Dorset	104 116	Double Gloucester	60 70
Carlow	—	Single do.	60 70
Waterford	—	York Hams (new)	76 84
Cork (new)	96 110	Westmoreland, do.	72 82
Warrick (old)	86 96	Irish do.	66 76
Sligo	—	Wiltshire Bacon (green)	64 66
Fresh, per doz. 12s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	Waterford	61 63

POTATOES, BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, May 8.
Although the arrivals of potatoes, coarsely and by land carriage, have been on a very moderate scale since Monday last, these markets are far from active; yet prices are fairly supported. The imports are 30 bags from Belfast and 25 do. from Ghent. York Regents, 130s. to 160s.; Essex and Kent do., 140s. to 170s.; Scotch do., 130s. to 150s.; Do. Cups, 110s. to 130s.; Irish Whites, 110s. to 120s.; Foreign 100s. to 110s. per ton.

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday, May 8.—The trade for Cloverseed &c., for present use, being now at an end, and there not being yet any speculative inquiry, no room is left for remark. Linseed maintains its high value. Rapeseed for sowing is in short supply, and fully as dear. Canaryseed, with limited supply, remains without alteration. The Linseed market continues firm, and prices are steadily supported. Inferior St. Petersburg has sold at 52s., Bombay 69s. to 70s., Odessa 65s. to 69s. per qr. There is very little doing in Cakes, yet holders demand extreme quotations.

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday, May 8.—Our market continues in a very sluggish state, and prices are barely supported. P.Y.C. on the spot is quoted at 64s. 3d., and for forward delivery 64s. to 66s. 6d. per cwt. Town tallow 62s. 3d., net cash; rough fat 3s. 6d. per 8 lbs.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, May 8.—The recent improvement in our market has been maintained during the past week, and many lots of middle and East Kent hops have been cleared off, as merchants have been more disposed to purchase. The trade in other descriptions remains about the same.

HAY, Saturday, May 6.			
At per load of 36 trusses.			
Smithfield.	Cumberland.	Whitechapel.	
Meadow Hay	52s. to 100s.	55s. to 105s.	52s. to 100s.
Clover	74s. 120s.	75s. 120s.	75s. 126s.
Straw	36s. 42s.	38s. 44s.	36s. 44s.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of Wool into London last week were 8,221 bales, of which 3,799 were from Port Phillip, 1,195 from Van Diemen's Land, and 1,269 from Sydney, 1,265 from Bombay. The rest was from Mogadore, China, Germany, &c. The public sales of wool commence next Thursday, and 36,768 bales will be offered of Colonial and East India. There will, of course, be foreign in addition. Of Port Phillip the quantity is over 14,000 bales, South Australian 4,000, Sydney 8,000,

and Cape 3,000 bales. All kinds of home-grown wools are dull in the extreme. The comparative tightness in the money market, and the prospect of discounts ruling higher, have induced numerous growers to become anxious sellers, especially as the new clip is turning out large in quantity, and good in quality; prices are therefore drooping, and very few buyers are coming forward.

COALS, Monday, May 8.—A general advance on all descriptions of Coal offered this day. Huttons, 21s.; Belmont, 20s. 6d.; Ruper Grange, 20s.; Hartley's, 20s.; Whitworth, 19s.; Tanfield, 18s. 6d. —Fresh arrivals, 45.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, May 8.—The market closed steadily, and prices of Americans were without change. The supply of all qualities under 54d. per lb. is large, but above this price desirable lots are scarce. The sales comprise 7,000 bales—500 for export and a similar quantity on speculation. The transactions included, in addition to Americans, of which 4,000 bales were sold, 360 Pernams and Maranhams sold at 6d. to 7d.; 60 Bahir, 64d.; 250 Egyptian, 6d. to 104d.; and 1,000 Surat, 3d. to 34d. per lb. The imports since Thursday are 3,000 bales.

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